

[*Translation*]

(viii) Need for steps to check erosion caused by the Gandak river near Gopalganj, Sewan and Saran districts

SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Gandak river originates from Nepal and passes through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and joins the Ganga near Sonapur. The L.R.P. Department has constructed a long bridge over this river near Dumaria Ghat. On account of the construction of this bridge the flow of this river has been obstructed although the bridge serves to link Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur. Due to the obstruction in the flow of the river there is soil erosion in Gopalganj, Sewan and Saran districts. This is causing danger to the bridge also. The soil erosion has also ruined the farmers financially.

Therefore, I request the Government to take suitable steps to check soil erosion and formulate welfare programmes for the affected farmers so that they do not face problems during the coming monsoon.

[*English*]

12.44 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1990-91—GENERAL DISCUSSION;

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), (1990-91)

AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) (1989-90)—
CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we will take up discussion on item Nos. 8 to 10—

General Discussion on General Budget.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to compliment my old friend and old colleague in arms on this side of the House, when we were there for many years together, Mr. Madhu Dandavate...

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): I am still colleague in arms.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: ...in the House, but not on this side.

I would like to compliment him on the first Budget which he has presented for 1990-91.

We welcome very much some of the objectives of the budgetary policies which he has, on behalf of the Government, announced in a very bold manner, I should say. Of course, those objectives cannot be realised overnight nor even in a short pace of three or four months. Their objectives which have been spelt out in terms of certain schemes and plans will take time to fructify, will take time to realise. The Government has also said that it wants to alter and change the whole perspective and outlook of planning including the emphasis on agriculture, the orientation towards providing more employment opportunities, particularly in the rural areas, lessening of the dependance on foreign loans, decentralisation of planning and various other things.

It is my duty also to point out to the Finance Minister that there were some other features of the budgetary policy during the last few years which we consider to be retrograde and I am, of course, hoping that those features also will be reversed by the present Government—though as I said, it cannot be done in one day. The process of reversion of those retrograde features should be started. For example, a very welcome factor is that he has given up the old habit which the previous Government had, of introducing steep hikes in the Centrally-ad-