

many coastal states in general and North Canara and South Canara districts of Karnataka in particular. It is a matter of great concern that the sea erosion problem has been increasing and many new areas are affected by it every year. More than fifteen villages in Karnataka State are facing the acute problem of sea erosion. They are Bengre, Suratkal, Gangelli, Shiravanthe, Sirur, Bhatkal, Kodibaga, Manki, Murdeswara, Kasaragoda, Pavanakurava, Mallukurva, Karki, Rameswara Taggu, Mavinakurva etc etc. The total population affected by sea erosion in Karnataka State is more than twenty thousand. Unless immediate steps are taken to protect these people from sea erosion, the future of these villagers will be in dark. They have already lost their houses, valuable lands. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to provide sufficient funds for construction of sea walls in the affected districts of Karnataka to prevent the recurrence of such calamities.

(ii) Demand for taking necessary measures to prevent the closure of BALCO Ltd.

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, BALCO (Bharat Aluminium Company Limited) which is a Government of India project and Korba Aluminium plant have been set up for regional and industrial development of Mandla, Bilaspur and Shahdol districts of Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the huge deposits of Bauxite there.

The mining of Bauxite is coming to an end in the approved mining area of Raktodadar—Nahundadar. Since 1981-82, the company has been asking the Government for the release of 206 hectares of land out of 987 hectares of land in the area to continue mining activity. If this is not immediately done, it would lead to the following problems.

1. Over 5000 workers in BALCO mines and about 25,000 in the plant will be thrown out of job.
2. BALCO pays about Rs. 3 lakhs to the exchequer by way of royalty. About Rs. 5 crores have already

been deposited in this account. In case the authorities fail to grant the approval, there will be financial loss as well. The ecology of the area will not be disturbed by the approval.

The company has observed all the rules relating to the maintaining of ecological balance. It has planted over one lakh trees of different varieties over an area of 43 hectares where mining was done. This afforestation has helped tremendously in improving the density of trees per hectare. It has risen from 250 trees per hectare to 2000 trees per hectare now.

Keeping in view the above mentioned facts it is requested that the only source of livelihood of 20,000 workers i.e. the Korba Aluminium plant which has been set up at a cost of Rs. 500 crores should function smoothly in the interest of national development. I urge the Hon. Minister to issue necessary instructions to the Madhya Pradesh Government to release 20 hectares of land immediately to the company and favourably consider the allotment of remaining 186 hectares of land to it. If the land is not allotted, there is every possibility of an agitation against the Government in this predominantly Adivasi area, because they are very much concerned about their livelihood. Therefore, I once again request the Hon. Minister to grant approval for the allotment of the said land to carry on mining activity.

(iii) Need to send Senior Railway Officers to Vidarbha to suggest measures for development of railways in that region

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the districts in the country are backward, because they lack even the basic amenities. The Centre is making all possible efforts to develop such districts. It has been found that Railways have an important role in the development of the country, because all those areas are well developed which are connected by the Railways.

Incentives were announced to develop Chandrapur, Garhchirauli and Bhandana