

Some excavation work was carried out around 1975 in Manjhi, Chirand and Chechar, situated on the banks of these rivers. The material and remains found in excavation proves that a very old civilisation is laying beneath the banks of these rivers. This civilization appears to be a contemporary of the Indus Valley civilisation or a very big area of that civilisation or an older civilisation than the Indus Valley civilisation. The material available as a result of excavation in Chechar so far indicates that it is unique thing in itself that remains of civilisation of this period have been found at one place in chronological order. It has happened in the world, perhaps, for the first time.

Some remains of this period have been found from the excavation in Chechar. Some articles made of stone, clay, copper, iron and animal horns have been found as remains at this site. Some of these articles have not been seen in any of the civilisation of the world. An agricultural implement made of reindeer's horns is a unique implement among the remains so far found in the world. An arohead made of copper and measuring 16.5 long found from this place is unique in the world. Some idols relating to Buddhism have also been found here. Some evidence have also been found which prove that Anand, the great disciple of Lord Budha had attained salvation at this very place.

It appears from the remains found during excavations in Manjhi, Chirand and Chechar that a very old civilisation developed in the area covering from Manjhi to Vaishali or may be beyond that also. Full information in this regard could be achieved if the Government undertakes excavation work in a systematic manner through the Department of Archaeology.

Therefore Government should get the buried cultural heritage excavated and preserve it. This will not only bring fame to the country but also add a new chapter to the history of world's civilisation.

[English]

(vii) Demand for proper distribution of the drought relief assistance in Karnataka

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA

(Hassan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the unprecedented drought in the Karnataka State has greatly affected the people. It is not only this year, the Karnataka State has been continuously suffering from drought for the last 3-4 years. This year's drought has added to further deterioration in the situation. The people have not been provided sufficient funds to meet the day-to-day needs. There are large number of people who have become unemployed and have no food to eat. The amount so far sanctioned to the State Government has not been fully provided to the affected people. There are difficulties in regard to supply of food to the drought affected people. I appeal to the Prime Minister to call for a report from the State Government about the relief measures and request that distribution of drought relief to the affected people in the State might be monitored closely by the Centre.

(viii) Demand for sending experts from the Centre to conduct research on the root rotting disease damaging the betel leaf crop in Balasore district of Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : As we all know, Balasore district popularly known as North Balasore in Orissa, is very famous for production of Betel leaf-pan-all over the country. The cultivation of pan leaf is the only source of earning of several lakh families in the area. But for the last few months these pan plants have been affected with an unknown disease. The roots of plants are rotting and many thousand betelvines containing many thousand of betel plants in each vine, are dying every day. The plant protection measures and pesticides prescribed by the experts in Agriculture Department of the State Government of Orissa could not prevent this epidemic. What to speak of remedial measures, the experts are not able to diagnose the disease yet; resulting in huge losses to lakhs of farmers. Millions of people have become unemployed.

In such circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to kindly send experts from the Centre to conduct research on this unknown root rotting disease and provide assistance and guidance to the farmers of the area as well as the