

districts. The Gopalganj district headquarters is also facing the threat of erosion because of Burhi Gandak river which has reached a place only three kms from there. No sufficient relief work has been provided by the Bihar Government. The main reason is that not sufficient amount is there in the relief fund of the State Government.

I would, therefore, like to request the Government that Central assistance may be provided to the people affected by the floods and soil erosion to the above district.

- (vii) Demand for reconsidering the decision to shift Muzaffarpur Carpet Weaving Training Centre to Gaya.

SHRI R. S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government is adamant to shift the Muzaffarpur Carpet Weaving Training Centre to Gaya. If this is done, thousands of workers and trainees will be rendered unemployed. Already there is lack of industries in north Bihar with the result that the number of educated and uneducated unemployed is increasing day-by-day.

The Central Government should reconsider its decision in the public interest under such circumstances.

- (viii) Demand for setting up of agro-based cottage industries specially in Punjab to create employment opportunities for the rural youth.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in spite of the present political and law and order situation in Punjab, the State has been the major contributor this year also to the Central Foodgrains Stock. It has contributed 65 per cent foodgrains. Last year, 60 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured from Punjab and this year this figure is likely to go up to 70 lakh tonnes.

Agriculture is becoming unremunerative industry in the country. The cost of production is increasing day-by-day. The farmer has

suffered cumulative loss to the tune of Rs. 45,000 crores from 1971 to 1981. Only in Punjab, the net income of a farmer has fallen to only Rs. 54 per hectare from Rs. 426 per hectare between 1971-81.

I would urge the Government to pay timely attention towards this. I would suggest that encouragement should be given for the setting up of cottage industries based on agricultural produce which require less capital and more labour.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for most of the people in Punjab but at present a number of youths are unemployed there. The agriculture has absorbed people to the maximum and the rest are discontent due to unemployment. If encouragement is given for the setting up of cottage industries based on agricultural produce, these youths may be able to earn their livelihood and save the country from the danger of extinction of cottage industries.

I would request the Government to get those industries identified immediately by the scientists and technologists which can be established with agricultural products and make arrangement for imparting training to them so that the unemployed youths could set up cottage industries on their own after undergoing training and earn their livelihood and make the agriculture a remunerative industry.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Shri Buta Singh—item No 6. We can take up Motion under Rule 388.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is taking up the question whether the Calling Attention will be taken up first, or the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Buta Singh, you can move item No. 6. Calling Attention has been fixed only at 12.30 p.m.