

and the urgency for implementation of the water supply project in Mumbai, the Government of India should consider this project consciously.

I humbly request the Government of India to reconsider the rejection of clearance to the Middle Vaitarna Project and accord necessary clearance to this proposal immediately so that the work on this project can start soon. Thank you.

**Need to combat erosion caused by river Brahmaputra
in Assam**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Assam): Sir, massive erosion by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries in the recent past has uprooted thousands of families in Assam, rendering them landless and homeless. A large chunk of cultivable land is merged with the river system annually. Assam's prime cultivable land is with more than 700 odd tea gardens. The riverine part of remaining landmass, which is subjected to devastating flood and erosion, has shattered the basic agrarian economy of Assam. The existence of many important towns and historically important places like Majuli, Sadiya, Dhakuakhana, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, and Mancachar is severely threatened.

The situation in the world's largest mid-river delta, the Majuli Island, is alarming which has faced uncontrollable erosion at an annual rate of two sq. km. which led to shrinkage of 20 sq. km. in the last decade. All the Vaisnava Monasteries within the Island, which thrived there under the Gurukul system in the last 400 years, have been affected. The people of Majuli led by Satradhikar, the Chief Spiritual Leader of Monasteries, are agitating. It is high time the Ministry of Water Resources, which has taken up the Majuli Erosion Control Master Plan through the Brahmaputra Board, approached the Planning Commission with necessary CWC clearance. I also urge upon the Ministry to implement the Short-Term Erosion Control Programme to save the Island. The Ministry should also draw a foolproof strategy to combat erosion in the entire State of Assam. Thank you.

SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.