

eration in the Barak Valley of Assam in July, 1979 and since then high-grade crude oil was found in six places including Duaka, Kanchanpur, Badarpur, Masimpur and Panchgram and Natural Gas was found at Adamtilla and Bashkandi. As per survey report, Prognosticated resources of more than 450 million Tonnes of crude oil and natural gas is lying in the valley. At Admtilla, natural gas is being burnt daily without making any arrangement of utilisation of the gas available which could be utilised for domestic connections, construction of gas Turbine Thermal Project etc. and manufacture of Fertilizer.

It is learnt that ONGC is going to stop drilling in the Valley on the plea of non-availability of crude oil. Already one Rig has been shifted and order for shifting of another Rig is on. I urge upon the Central Government for immediate exploration of the oil and natural gas lying in deposit in Barak Valley and also for establishment of Oil Refinery, Gas Turbine and Fertilizer Factory in the Valley.

- (iv) **Need for early construction of a barrage on river Ganga in Kanpur to solve drinking water problem of the areas**

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute scarcity of drinking water in the metropolitan city of Kanpur which has the largest population in the State having largest population in the country. This industrial city lacks in respect of many civic amenities, but the problem of drinking water is very acute. The city has always depended on river Ganga for drinking water, but with the change of its course the river is flowing along a distance of 7-8 kilometres from the city. Poor people living in slum colonies stand in queue for hours to get water from the taps, but often return empty-handed because water does not come through the taps at all. The problem has not yet been taken that seriously, due to which the situation has become grave. This problem can be solved only by con-

structing a barrage on the river and brining the water nearer to the city. This is a very sensitive issue and empty assurances will not do. Due to paucity of funds, the present State Government is unable to do anything in this regard, but is ready to extend all help if any project is undertaken by the Central Government.

Therefore, I would request the Government to pay immediate attention towards this matter of life and death for the residents of Kanpur and formulated a scheme for the construction of a barrage on river Ganga and implement the same, so that drinking water could be made available to people. Construction of a barrage on river Ganga is the permanent solution for providing drinking water to the constantly increasing population of this metropolitan city. Therefore, the Government should implement this long awaited scheme on priority basis and fulfill its duty.

- (v) **Need for uniform rate for sugarcane throughout the country**

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a great discontent among the farmers due to fixing of different rates of sugarcane in different States. Most of the sugar mills are old and in decrepit condition, due to which their crushing capacity has gone down. In the circumstances, it is apprehended that lakhs of quintals of sugarcane would dry up in the fields itself. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is more serious. A cut of Rs. 3 instead of Rs. 2/- per quintal is being made this year at the purchasing centres due to which lakhs of farmers will suffer huge financial losses. Due to a five per cent reduction in the commission payable to sugarcane cooperatives, the future of the cooperatives which are already running in loss and their employees has become dark. Due to the non-payment of price of sugarcane in most of the States the farmers are experiencing acute financial crisis and most of them are forced to mortgage the slips issued by sugar mills. I would like to demand from the Central