inquiry into it so that the dismissed employees may get justice.

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and this House to the act of violations of the Constitution by the Government of India There are 14-15 languages in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. In addition to this, other languages spoken in other parts of the country have been recognised as national languages. Maithili is one of them and its rich literature is available from 12th century. This language is the mother-tongue of a large part of India and Nepal. From Delhi, Nepal appears as a foreign country. But in view of language, geography history and culture, it is like a real brother to us and we still have social ties with them. In 1914. census could not be held in our country due to Second World War. During the census of 1951 and 1961, the Maithili speaking people submitted their representation to the Government but later on the Government did not publish the figure regarding Maithili speaking people in violation of the Constitution. We came to know about this later, but it was stopped by the Government through a secret order. I have written to the Minister of Home Affairs to stop this injustice immediately. Maithili is an ancient language. It was recognised by the University in the first decade of this century. At that time, all the educational institutions in Bihar and Orissa were affiliated to Calcutta University. Seven Universities still have post-graduation course in Maithili. Thousands of students have postgraduated in this language and thousand others are doing so. Hundreds are doing doctorate also, but recently the Bihar Government, like the Centre has decided to remove it from list of optional subjects for the examination of State service Commission. Mother tongue is known to eveyone. It is the simplest medium for acquiring knowledge and development of the masses. Therefore, I would like to tell those, who are not aware that folk songs sung by lakhs of people like heroic poetry of Lodhi named 'Lodi Kayan' and poetry of Shailesh, whom people call Salehas and the poetry of Deenabhadri are very popular in India and Nepal. Besides.

there are thousands of books in this language. In such situation, when we are not able to adopt a new thing, it is also unjustified to show such attitude to an old language. In spite of all our efforts, three-fourth of our population is still illiterate. Mother-tongue is the simplest and best medium to educate people. Therefore I would request the Government to publish immediately the census report of Maithili -speaking people and the Bihar Government should withdraw its decision. With these words, I conclude. (Interruptions). My frieds is saying ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let this not be recorded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the severe power crisis that has developed in Karnataka. The production of power is much less than 50 per cent of the demand. Many industries - both high tension and low tension industries- are on the verge of closure and so much of unemployment is being created. After a long deliberation, the Mangalore Super Thermal Power Project was cleared. More than 1500 acres of land was already acquired for the purpose. The Mangalore Super Thermal Power Project was to be set up with the Russian aid. Now, on account of the political changes in USSR there is no guarantee that Project will come up. Now, we hear the news that International Monetary Fund and the World Bank aid will be taken for making investment in the power generation sector. So, I would make an earnest appeal to the Government to invest such funds so that the Mangalore Super Thermal Power Project could be set up immediately. Till then I request that immediate arrangements be made for the supply of power to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra to tide over the situation.

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the

attention of the Government to the serious drought situation in the State of Kerala. The State is faced with an unprecendented situation of drought and shortage of drinking water. The drought has affected all fields of economy in the state. The agriculture sector is the worst affected. The cash crops which earn foreign exchange for us are on the brink of a collapse. The rural population is faced with unemployement and poverty. The coastal belt also is seriously affected with fisherman thrown out of jobs.

I would request the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

## [Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present the Bihar Government is negotiating with Nepal for construction of a high dam on river Kosi but the Government of India is not likely to take any action on it now. Due to this, the Bihar Government is finding it difficult to negotiate with the Government of Nepal.

Every year there is loss of life, property and crops due to floods in North Bihar and both the Central and the State Governments spend billions and billions of rupees as relief and grants. I would like to demand from the Government of India that it should immediately take up these important questions. Besides this, it is clear from the survey conducted by the Government of Bihar that half of our country can be supplied electricity if this high dam is constructed with the consent of Nepal Government.

Therefore, I would like to demeand that immediate arrangements should be made for the construction of high dam on river Kosi.

## [English]

DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimgani): In Hailakandi district of Assam there is only one L.P.G distributorship and as a result there is maximum demand for cooking gas but this single agency cannot cope up with the hige demand. On the other hand fuel wood is not at all sufficiently available due to heavy deforestation through illegal felling of trees and because of drawing of plants and bamboos as raw materials by the Hindustan Corporation Paper Ltd., Panehgram.

So, lurge upon the Government to allow another L.P.G. distributorship at an early date in Hailakandi district to meet the demand of the large number of consumers so that they are relieved of their anxiety of having gas cylinder.

SHRI B.N.REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards deteriorating condition of Handloom Weavers in Andhra Pradesh. The Government's callous attitude caused an inordinate delay in meeting their genuine demands. In response to the reported starvation deaths of more than 100 handloom weavers, some Ministers and officials had visited the State during the last quarter of 1991. The purpose of such visits was, I think, merely to show lip sympathies to the families of the unfortunate victims. This is because none of the promises made to the people during the visits was fulfilled so far. For instance, while the Union Textiles Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot, promised all help to tide over the crisis in the handloom industry, the Commerce Minister, shri P. Chidambaram has gone to the extent of assuring to supply 4000 bales of yarn to Andhra Pradesh every month by the South Indian Mills Association.

But to our disappointment, nothing has been done. Not a single bale was received by the weavers. Neither the Central nor the State Government has paid any attention that it deserve in this regard. Further, it is a matter of serious concern, as no compensation was provided to the bereaved families so far.

Now, coming to the crisis in the handloom industry, I think, it was due to the unprecedented increase in the price of yam and dyes and lack of work. As a result, the Primary Cooperative Societies, the APCO and the State Textile Development Corporation have failed to provide work to the weav-