

(ii) Need to take preventive steps to check closure of Industries in Kota, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the industries in the industrial city of Rajasthan, Kota, have been closing down in a planned way. Recently, Sudarshan Textile, Oriental Power Cables and Wool factories in Kota have closed down but now the back bone of the labourers of Kota, Padam Singh Staties, J.K. Tyre Cord and J.K. Acrylic have also been closing down in a planned manner. On the one hand it will disrupt industrial peace and on the other hand the development and life of Kota would also be affected.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that in the large interest of the labourers an immediate step to check the closure of the industries in Kota should be taken.

(iii) Need to provide Central Assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up Industries for Development of Backward District of Balaghat.

12.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Sir, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is a no industry district. Managese Copper is in abundance in the district. In fact, one third of countries copper is available there. Besides, granite, lime stone, donamite and other minerals alongwith 'Sagon' and 'Sagwan' wood and good quality of bamboo are available. Despite the availability of the above mentioned items, there is acute unemployment. People go to other areas for employment and due to it there is imbalance of development in the country. The industries based on these raw materials and minerals like paper mill and sugar mill can be set up there.

My submission to the Central Government is that a survey of this area should be conducted and industries should be set up there with the assistance of Central and State Government for the development of this backward area.

(iv) Need to Ban use of Plastic Bottles used by Soft Drink Manufacturers

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious

matter concerning the health of the people of the nation. According to Inter Press Service, Washington, plastic Pepsi bottles from the United States of America are being dumped in India where they are processed under unsafe conditions. The scrap pepsi bottles of coca cola and other soft drink from California are stockpiled at Tiruvalluvar in South India. The Company washes and chips the scrap, then send it to the factory nearby Manali where a large number of workers are working, they are complaining of damage being caused to them by those plastic bottles. Particularly the hot water rinsing of plastic bottles is dangerous to health as the workers have not been provided gloves and masks for their protection. There are at least two dozen of such factories in that region. The process can be hazardous as the plastic bottles when heated gives off toxic vapours that can cause skin rashes, respiratory problems and eye irritation.

I urge upon the Government to ban the use of such plastic bottles which have been dumped in those factories.

(v) Need to Evolve Effective Mechanism to solve the problems of workers of sick PSUs particularly in West Bengal

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : A spectre of uncertainty and serious apprehension looms large over the future of 19 Central Public Sector Units in particular, located in West Bengal which stand referred to BIFR. These PSUs are under the Ministries of Industry, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Textiles. The number of employees and workers in those Central Public Sector Units are about seventy thousand. It was noticed that in 1996 payment of wages was irregular in most of these Central Public Sector Units particularly in NTC, NJMC, Jessop, MAMC, BOGL, Cycle Corporation of India, Refractory Units of Burn Standard Company etc., because of non-provision of non-plan assistance by the Government. Production was also affected in most cases due to lack of working capital and non-plan support. Besides wages, payment of other statutory dues like PF and gratuity to retired employees also in a number of CPSUs still remains outstanding.

It is apprehended that the entire situation may further worsen this year, if a comprehensive plan is not chalked out. I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up an effective mechanism to monitor the problem of making regular payment of wages and other statutory dues of the workers and employees and for keeping the production unaffected by making adequate provision of non-plan support for all these sick Central Public Sector Units.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that it is a very very important issue. I would request them to really look into this matter. I hope not the Government's usual, routine

approach on this matter. This is a very serious matter concerning the lives of lakhs of workers and their families. Therefore, I would urge upon you to kindly look into it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Statutory dues are also not being paid.

- (vi) **Need to sanction the proposal of Government of Maharashtra to increase the amount of Grant for construction of latrines under rural Sanitation Programme.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for construction of each latrine under the Rural Sanitation Programme, the Central Government had fixed an amount of rupees 2500 during 1992. It was decided that 40 per cent of the cost of production i.e. rupees 1000/- would be provided to the State Government by the Central Government as grant. During the last five years the cost of labour and building material has increased tremendously. At present the cost of production of each latrine has gone upon 4000 rupees. Therefore the Government of Maharashtra has urged upon the Central Government to increase this amount of grant of 40 per cent i.e. 1000 rupees to 1600 rupees.

The Government of Maharashtra has launched an ambitious scheme to construct 5 lakh latrines per year. Accordingly, during the next four years 20 lakh latrines would be constructed. My submission to the union government is that the increased cost of construction should be accepted and release the amount of grant which is 27.78 crores according to the state government for the latrines constructed till date... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kanshi Ram ji, you would get a chance tomorrow since once your name was called and at that time you were not present.

- (vii) **Need to Recognize Tamil as a Classical Language**

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Sir, it has been a long pending demand that Tamil language which is as ancient as Greek, Arabic and Persian should be recognized as a classical language by the Government of India.

Way back in 1920 itself, efforts were made and resolutions were passed by the "Karanthai Tamil Sangam" and simultaneously by the then undivided Madras University to declare Tamil as a classical language. Irrespective of the time that has lapsed and the unique qualities that the Tamil Language possesses,

the demand is still not yet realised by the Union Government.

As Greek and Latin reflect the European Community's culture and social values, Tamil is as important to understand the ancient tradition, culture, religion, fundamental and more values and philosophy of Indian Community.

Mr. Suneeth Kumar Chatterjee, the famous linguist has asserted that the Indian Culture is a congregation of various communities among which the major contribution is that of the Dravidian families, in general and Tamil culture, in particular.

Many eminent and distinguished Tamil and Western scholars have stressed the need to recognize Tamil as a classical language.

We, of course, realise that our heritage and traditional values have to be preserved and celebrated, as such things cannot be earned by any nation or community as and whenever it wishes. These could only be inherited over a period of centuries.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take necessary steps to declare Tamil as a classical language.

12.37 hrs.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET — GENERAL DISCUSSION - 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS) 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS — RAILWAYS 1994-95

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS — RAILWAYS 1996-97 - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up further discussion on the Budget (Railways), 1997-98. The time allotted for this discussion is nine hours; and the time already taken is one hour and 21 minutes. So, the balance time is seven hours and 39 minutes.

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, to continue his speech

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps the discussion goes on the railway budget for the whole night. I want to know whether it would be today or tomorrow, because if it is known then it would be easy to inform the speakers. It is just a suggestion that if previous trend is followed then the