

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I would like to raise a matter of public interest. I support what Shri Ram Naik ji said just now.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes I know, you will support him.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Government of India used to supply paper on concessional rates to the Government of Rajasthan for years together for the purpose of printing of text-books and notebooks for distributing them among the students on cheaper rates but, now, the Government of India has withdrawn that quota.

Under the instructions of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bharaon Singh Shekhawat and the Minister of Education, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, text books and notebooks were distributed free of cost to the students upto fifth standard in Rajasthan. My submission is that the quota of paper given to the Government of Rajasthan on concessional rates should be restored so that it can make a provision in the Budget for distributing text-books and notebooks to all the students upto eighth standard. Besides, the demand of the Newspaper Society of India of bringing down the rate of newsprint should also be met so that newsprint is available to the newspaper industry on cheaper rates and the inflated rates of newspapers in Rajasthan are checked. I will land and hail you in Rajasthan if the concessional quota of paper is restored to us forthwith. Thank you
... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, there is an acute dearth of water in Uttar Pradesh presently. The people have no water to drink and the cattle are dying in the absence of water. The people are sending their cattle elsewhere and facing a worse water dearth. People have come on roads in villages as well as towns. Due to heat, the level of the ground water has steeply fallen rendering all the hand-pumps defunct. The water tanks and water supply departments are rendered useless due to short supply of electricity. Such a situation arisen in Uttar Pradesh should be combated on a war-footing.

Despite being an international tourist centre the tourists in Agra are faced with a serious water crisis. I would like to give two-three suggestions. Water should be released in canals. The water tanks should be harnessed on time and the ponds filled with water. Measures should be taken on a war footing in this regard. Tubewells should be installed in metropolitan cities. The Central Government should give special grants from the Drought Relief Fund. The Department of Health should also take care of people's problems as there is a danger of breaking out of an epidemic.

[English]

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD (Vadodra) : Sir, I come from Baroda constituency

which is one of the most important cities in Gujarat. In my constituency, there are a few PSUs and one of the PSUs is the Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited. It is operating in my constituency for the last 35 years. Since the last ten years, the sons of the soil in my constituency have not got any appointments there. Since the last ten years, about 2,000 appointments have been made, but the sons of the farmers are not getting the justice. Not only that, Sir, the IPCL has expanded its activity and is coming up with a new plant in Gandhar, which is a place very close to Baroda. This project is worth Rs. 5,000 crore. Lately, there have been some appointments. There are 160 posts in the category of officers, out of which 6 Personnel Officers have been appointed and none of them is a Gujarati.

Sir, through you, I would like to convey to the Petroleum Ministry that this injustice meted out to the sons of the farmers and the Gujaratis will not be tolerated. There has been an agitation going on and, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that though the cities of Baroda, Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat are having the best of the engineering and management colleges, the appointments that are made are from other States. So, I request you to kindly look into the matter urgently, before the people's agitation takes a violent turn. I would like to request the Petroleum Ministry to stop

[English]

The immediate appointments that are going to take place of around 200 people. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN (Kairana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of electricity has created a grim situation in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers and the industry are facing a serious power crisis throughout Uttar Pradesh. The district of Muzaffarnagar in particular, where the energetic and hard working people of Uttar Pradesh live and where agriculture is flourishing, is the most backward district from electricity point of view. The Government has announced that electricity will be supplied for 16 hours in rural areas and 20 hours in urban areas. But electricity is a rare sight in Muzaffarnagar. People are much agitated there.

Sir, I would also like to bring it to your notice that an agitation is being launched tomorrow at Kandela Power House in Muzaffarnagar and we are going to gherao it. Arrangements for supply of electricity should be immediately made before the situation gets out of control there. The Government is requested to ensure the supply of power for 16 hours and 20 hours in rural and urban areas respectively.