

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

Acquisition Act of above mentioned Parishad formulated by the Legislature of the concerned states are vested in the Parliament. (as per the provision of Article 254(2).

The Union Government is, therefore, urged upon to bring forth and amendment in the provisions relating to the acquisition of land under the Parishad Act, without delay in order to remove discrimination and anomalies to which thousands of farmers in the state of Uttar Pradesh are being subjected to.

(iii) Need to set up 2000 Megawatt Power Project in Central Bihar

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the power situation in Gaya district of Central Bihar and Palamu, Chatra and other districts of South Bihar is deteriorating fastly. It seems that people of Central Bihar and South Bihar are returning to the age when man used lanterns. Except some of the urban areas, rural areas are not getting power for more than two or three hours. As a result of it thousands of small scale industries have been closed down. Due to shortage of power several big industries are also unable to function smoothly. Thousands of acres of farmers' Land are not being irrigated and lakhs of students are unable to carry on their studies due to shortage of power. The condition is so dreadful that despondency and frustration is increasing among youth.

In view of the public interest I, therefore urge upon the Union Government to set up a 2000 Megawatt power project expeditiously in any one of the Gaya, Palamu or Chatra district. This proposed project will benefit crores of people of the State and initiate development in the state.

(iv) Need to take steps to Save Indigenous Newsprint Units from Closure

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : There are four government-owned newsprint manufacturing units in India. The total production capacity of these four units is around 4.5 lakh tonnes against a total annual demand of 6.5 lakh tonnes. The shortfall is met from imports.

Till 1992 the imports were restricted to actual users who could import newsprint at a ratio of 4 : 1 (i.e.) for every one tonne of newsprint imported.

The overseas newsprint exporters formed themselves into a cartel and started dumping large quantities of

newsprint in the Indian market. The landed price cost of imported newsprint (deliberately kept low) is much lower than the cost of the indigenous newsprint.

In 1995-96 a recommendation was made by the Kelkar Committee to impose a 40 per cent duty on imported newsprint, to give some relief to the indigenous units, but strangely this was not accepted or implemented by the Government of India.

Presently, there are about 35,000 newspapers/magazines/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India entitling them to import any quantity of newsprint without payment of customs duty irrespective of the fact that more than 80 per cent of these newspapers do not come out regularly according to the Indian Newspapers Society.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take remedial measures by adopting a national newsprint policy and anti-dumping measures to be initiated through imposing customs duty at the rate of 40 per cent on imported newsprint as recommended by the Kelkar Committee, clamping or a counter-vailing duty on imported newsprint to provide a level-playing field to indigenous units by restricting imports ceiling to about two lakh tonnes (shortfall) annually and issuing import entitlement certificates by the Registrar of Newspapers for India based upon actual circulation of a newspaper/periodical.

(v) Re : Need to include Parivara, Besta and Talvara Communities of Karnataka in the list of Scheduled Tribes

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : A large number of people belonging to Talvara, Parivara and Besta communities have been living in some areas of Mysore District, Karnataka. They belong to weaker sections of the society and they have relations with people belonging to Scheduled Tribes. These tribes are synonymous to Nayakas, Naiks and Valmikis. These communities have been demanding since long for including them in the list of Scheduled Tribes. In fact, this was recommended by the State Government of Karnataka long ago. When the Ordinance was promulgated in the year 1990 to include certain synonymous equivalent to Nayakas under the category of Scheduled Tribes, the synonymous Parivara, Talvara and Besta have been left out. The matter is being highlighted by the State Government for more than a decade. While moving a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, the Minister in-charge had given a categorical assurance on the floor of the House to include some other minor communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

who have been called by different names in different States.

Since Parivara, Besta and Talvara communities are synonymous to Nayakas, Naiks and Valmikas, I request the Union Government to include these communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

(vi) Need to Provide More Funds to Government of Assam for Anti-malaria Programme

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Malaria has been taking a heavy toll of life not only in the rural areas but in urban areas also in Assam. Mosquitoes breed in lakhs of depressions, water accumulations even during the winter. It appears that the Government of India, the Ministry of Health asked the State Government to employ DDT Sprayers for anti-malaria programme, but the State Government allegedly due to paucity of funds to implement this Central Government programme, with whatever fund it gets, employ men for this programme for five months of the summer. Such implementation of anti-malaria work is inadequate for the eradication of this disease spreading like an epidemic even in the cold season because stagnant water is found everywhere for breeding mosquitoes. The prevailing condition throughout the year calls for implementation of Malaria Eradication Programme all throughout the year in Assam. The Defence Ministry, however, appears to have ordered its Air Force formations at Delhi to regularise the employment of anti-malaria workers, but due to lack of general practice ordered by the Union Health Ministry in the interest of the civilian population in Assam, the Indian Air Force and the Army have not undertaken any anti-malaria measures for the whole of the year threatening an outbreak of this disease in the cold season also. Assam experiences winter from the middle of December to middle of February only (approximately 65 days in the year). It is, therefore, a proverbially malaria infested region. The people of Assam demand that Malaria Eradication Programme should be an all-the-year-round measure for 23 plain districts of the State of Assam. For that purpose, the Union Health Ministry should allocate larger amount of funds to the State with the special direction that the said allocation must not be diverted to make up shortage of funds which cannot be provided by the State from its own resources.

(vii) Need to set up Central School with Boarding Facilities in Bihar and Other Backward States

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, about 84 lakh children in our country

are compelled to take to glass-picking, working in Motor garrages, carrying loads at railway platforms and serving in hotels. These children are burdened with the responsibility to feed their family since their childhood and thus live in poverty for their lives and harm the future of this country.

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Independence but the Government could not get the desired result in case of development of these children who are the future of the country, even by launching literacy programme, creating equal society and by enacting several new laws and making amendments in the existing ones. The Government has provided for compulsory and free education to children upto the age of 14 years but has not attended to their basic needs (i.e. food, clothing, shelter and creation of congenial atmosphere of study for them).

Therefore, I would like to say to hon. Chairman and all the MPs that the need for setting up Central Schools with boarding facilities in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, other backward States and Union Territories is imperative so that these poor children may be given social justice, brought in the mainstream and could be saved from falling in bad company.

(viii) Need to amend Indian Penal Code to empower police to check unauthorised occupation of land

DR. BALIRAM (Lalgunj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a peculiar problem emerging in Uttar Pradesh especially in Azamgarh district. The poor farmers and Government employees living in this area are constantly oppressed by tyrants and criminals who occupy their lands and fields possessed by them since the time of their forefathers. When an oppressed person approaches the local police station with the relevant land ownership papers, his complaint is not heard. Disappointed person then moves to court, where such cases remain pending for long and the land continues to be in possession of the tyrant and criminal elements.

Sir, through you, I demand that the Government should make amendment in Indian Penal Code and Criminal Code to frame such a rule that may enable police to take preventive action immediately on the basis of the vericity of the land ownership papers so that the land of poor and government employees could not be grabbed. Courts should also deal with such cases immediately on the basis of vericity of land ownership papers and the persons guilty should be fined and punished.