

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Pushkar is also important from cultural, religious, historical, pilgrimage and tourism point of view. Millions of people from different parts of India come here to have a holy dip in the Sarovar. A large number of foreign tourists regularly visit this place. Siltation of such a secured lake and the emergence of drought like situation is not proper. The water of this lake has become polluted.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to get the Pushkar Sarovar desilted and formulate and implement special plan immediately to save it from pollution so as to ensure proper development of Pushkar.

(ii) **Need to grant approval for setting up a Sugar Mill in Unnao District, U.P.**

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : The Sugarcane growers in Unnao District have to face a lot of difficulties, the sugarcane growers have to take their cane to sugar mills which are located far away because there is no sugar mill in Unnao district and due to that very reason the farmers are gradually inclined to stop production of sugarcane.

I had earlier many times demanded in this House of setting up of a Sugar Mill in Unnao district, I had also received from the Ministry of Food that the proposal of setting up of a Sugar mill had been sent to the Ministry of Industry but I have not got any information from the above Ministry so far.

I, therefore, again request the Government that the Sanction for setting up a sugar mill in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh may expeditiously be accorded.

(iii) **Need to ensure remunerative prices for the Agricultural produce**

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Ours is predominantly an agriculture country, when a farmer increases production of its crops in any part of the world, he is given all sorts of incentives but whenever the farmer of our country increases its production, he does not get sufficient remunerative prices. On the other hand, if a farmer produces more sugarcane, its prices fall down, if he increases the production of potatoes, its prices come down, if the production of rubber increases, its prices show a downward trend, similarly if the production of cotton is boosted, its prices also come down because of which the farmer gets discouraged and the agriculture production

registers a shortfall and as a result of which sometimes we face shortage of sugar in our country and sometimes we have shortage of foodgrains in the country. Due to this very reason, we had to import sugar in 1995 and similarly, we imported wheat during 1996-97. If the Government provides sufficient assistance to farmers on increasing production of their produce, there will be no shortfall in agricultural production in our country but we could export agriculture based produce on a permanent basis. I want to make two submissions to prevent economic exploitation of the farmers of the country :

1. while making assessment of the production cost of agriculture produce, the interest accrued during the crop period may be added to the cost of land.

2. 80 per cent members in the Agriculture Price Commission should be included from among farmers.

(iv) **Need to open a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Mayurbhanj, Orissa**

[English]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj) : Madam, as per the directions of the Government, Krishi Vigyan Kendras are being opened in many districts of the country or even in some of the districts of Orissa. But it is surprising that Mayurbhanj, one of the largest districts of the country, has been deprived of a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in spite of the repeated assurance given by successive Governments.

The setting up of a Kendra in Mayurbhanj which consists of people mostly from tribal areas will certainly help in promoting the agriculture in the district and obviously will assist in generating employment to the jobless youth of the areas.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps for setting up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Mayurbhanj, Orissa, as early as possible.

(v) **Need to establish a Permanent Engineering Wing at Arakha Kula in Puri district, Orissa, for regular desilting of Chilka lake**

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Sir, Chilka is the largest salt water lake in Asia. It has varieties of fish. The Arakha Kula is the mouth of Chilka joining the sea. Because of silting of the mouth, there is reduction of the tidal influx of sea water. As sea water does not come regularly, it affects the marine species in Chilka. In addition, the land side coastline of Khurda District and Puri District

of Orissa get inundated during the rainy season. The Mitra Commission had recommended certain measures for desilting of the Chilka mouth.

Regularly desilting of the mouth is absolutely necessary in view of the littoral drift in the Bay of Bengal and the washing away of surface soil into Chilka from the Eastern Ghat mountains.

It is not known as to what action has been taken by the Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee for desilting of the Chilka mouth.

The Ministry of Water Resources may take steps for establishment of a permanent Engineering Wing at Arakha Kula under Puri district of Orissa for regular desilting measures.

I, request the Central Government to look into it.

- (vi) **Need to develop minor ports in Tamil Nadu and also to set up a minor port in Mahabalipuram**

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : Sir, we have a long coastal borderline having natural and situational advantages for establishment and provision of more facilities in the existing ports in the country. Our country has 11 major ports and 139 minor ports at present. But compared to the share of cargo-handling by both major and minor ports, it only works out to eight per cent of the total cargo-handling in the country. Out of this, Gujarat alone handles about 70 per cent through minor ports. The States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka and Kerala have been planning to develop and to provide facilities in their respective minor ports in cooperation and with the help and sanction of the Union Government.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there is a vast coastline where conducive and advantageous conditions prevail not only for the establishment of new ports but also for development of existing minor ports. The immediate need is to develop and augment the existing minor ports to Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin, etc. in which the Cuddalore port itself can save Rs. 200 crore of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in coal transportation per year.

I would also request the Central Government to consider establishment of a minor port in Mahabalipuram, which was very famous and known as Mamallapuram in Pallava dynasty in 9th and 10th centuries. Mahabalipuram was already serving as a minor port for trade purposes during Pallava dynasty and during British days.

- (vii) **Need to set up a low power T.V. transmitter at Ajaddhya Hill in Purulia district, West Bengal**

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : About seven lakh people of Bagmundi, Balarampur, barabazar, Manbazar and Bandulon Police Station in Purulia district of West Bengal as Bengali-speaking. But they are deprived to T.V. coverage from Asonsol/Calcutta Doordarshan Kendra.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to instal a low power transmission centre at Ajaddhya Hill in the district of Purulia in West Bengal.

- (viii) **Need to increase the amount of pension to freedom fighters**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT. KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the golden jubilee of independence to expeditiously dispose of the claims of the freedom fighters a two member special audit team was constituted on the subject under a special cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs but because of not providing the staff like assistants and stenographers, the pace of disposal of claims is not that much as was expected. Those claimants who can face the difficulty of coming to Delhi and making efforts continuously, only their files could be presented for disposal. There is a urgent need to take necessary action to make this team effective by providing it assistants and stenographers and to accelerate the pace of disposal of these files regarding their claims.

A paltry sum of Rs. 1500 per month is given to freedom fighters as a honorary pension. It would be desirable and expedient to raise the amount upto three thousand per month in this year of golden jubilee of independence.

Those freedom fighters who were in prison for at least three months or had disappeared for the same period, only they are being provided this facility and whose period of imprisonment is slightly lesser than that, they have been deprived of this facility which does not seem proper. So, I request that the above amount should be in proportion to the period of their imprisonment and the amount of honorary pension should be proportionate to their period of imprisonment. It is not proper not to recognise them as a freedom fighter whose period of imprisonment is less than three months whereas their contribution had been also significant in the freedom struggle.