

which people have to face starvation. Terrorism is also increasing.

In order to resolve the power crisis, global tenders were invited in respect of 2000 megawatt Thermal Power Project on 30.8.96 by the Power Grid Corporation of India with the help of Ministry of Power. But so far no response has been received. No initiative is being taken by the Government in this regard.

The Union Government is, therefore, requested to include the Navinagar Thermal Power Project in the Ninth Five year Plan so as to solve the grave power crisis in Bihar.

14.00 hrs.

(iv) Need to direct Kerala Government to release water to Periyar Dam in Tamil Nadu to Mitigate hardships of farmers of that State

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Sir, Periyar Dam is an old and unique Dam constructed by the Britishers in 1895 with an overall height of 156 ft. to cater to the irrigation and drinking water needs of greater area of Madurai District and adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

But after the construction of the Idukki Dam for Hydro generation of power by Kerala Government there is considerable reduction in the flow of water to Periyar Dam and presently it is filled up only upto 136 ft. from 1979 onwards. This is causing great hardship to the people of Tamil Nadu, primarily farmers.

Even after implementation for the suggestions of the High Power Technical Committee to strengthen the structures of the Dam upto 152 ft. by the TN Government by incurring additional expenditure of Rs. 13 crores, the Kerala Government had failed to honour its commitments to release water to the Periyar Dam.

If the level of water is increased to 145 ft. immediately, a lot of relief can be forthcoming to the people of Tamil Nadu.

I request the Government to intervene and advice the Government of Kerala to store water in Periyar Dam so that its capacity can be utilised upto 156 ft. for fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the Tamil Nadu people across the border.

(v) Need to take early steps for Delimitation of the Constituencies particularly in Ladakh Region

[English]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Sir, the Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency which is about 100 sq. kms. and two-third area of J&K State is the largest constituency

in the country. The small population of about two lakhs is spread over the rugged mountains, difficult topography and high altitude area and the entire inhabited area ranges from about 9000 ft. to 15,000 ft. above sea level. The area remains cut off from the rest of the country for over seven months in a year due to blockade of the two highways because of heavy snow-fall. The only exist to the outside world for the seven winter months is through air service which too is inadequate high altitude and difficult terrains, the single Member of Parliament and four Members of State Assembly are not in a position to do full justice with the electorates to redress their grievances unless a fresh delimitation of Parliament and Assembly constituencies of Ladakh region is made.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take early steps for delimitation of the constituencies to increase the present single parliamentary constituency from one to two and double the present four Assembly constituencies on the basis of vastness of area, difficult topography and high altitudes.

(vi) Need for Modernisation of Doordarshan Kendra, Gorakhpur (U.P.).

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to give notice on the following matter under Rule 377 :—

Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra is one of the important Kendra of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The programmes telecast by this Kendra cover not only the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh but also a sizeable part of Nepal, which is known as Terai where these programmes are viewed by the people, with interest. This centre covers Bhojपुरi speaking region also which is the main language of Uttar Pradesh and Northern Bihar.

Gorakhpur Doordarshan is in a pitiable condition. Whatever equipments are sent for the modernisation work of this Kendra, are diverted to other places. A new transmitter and a generator was taken away to some other place. For the last 10 years no modernisation work has taken place there. The Government of India sanction grant for the buildings of Doordarshan Kendra but so far funds have not been sanctioned for the building of this Centre.

Gorakhpur is the biggest city of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and one of the main objectives of Gorakhpur relay centre is to propagate the ideology of India and to disseminate information on our ways of life, to the people of Nepal. In view of this, modernization of Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra has become unavoidable and, therefore, this work should be given top priority by the Government. I request the Government to undertake modernization work of Gorakhpur Doordarshan Kendra immediately and pay its attention towards quality of the programmes telecast by this Kendra.