

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thangkabalu, you can associate with him but you have to give a slip.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding shortage of drinking water in my constituency Chamaraj Nagar.

Sir, Chamaraja Nagar is one of the most backward districts in the country. Majority of its population belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. More than half of my district is hilly region. Shortage of drinking water is a burning problem in my district. People are facing great difficulties due to lack of drinking water. Chamaraja Nagar consists of assembly segments, namely, Naujangud, H.D. Kote, T. Narsipur, Varuna, Bahur, Kollegal and Hanur. In these assembly constituencies drinking water crises has reached its peak. Bore wells are drying up and ground water level has gone down. We are unable to get ground water even at the depth of 800 ft. Another shocking news is that the available water is contaminated with fluoride, which causes health hazards. So it is not fit for drinking. In this regard, last month, I submitted memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji, the U.P.A. Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji and the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji to reconsider a reservoir project at Kabini river to provide drinking water to the people of 148 villages in my district. This project can also be expanded further to provide drinking water to another 300 villages. It requires a sum of Rs. 105 crores. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to come forward and take up this 2nd phase of Kabini Reservoir Project with an allocation of Rs. 105 crores, so that people of my districts get sufficient safe drinking water. I hope the Centre would take immediate action as it is the joint responsibility of the Governments at the Centre as well as at the State to ensure basic needs like food, education and water to its citizens.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the issue of petroleum prices.

In the morning, during the Question Hour, we have discussed this issue, but the point is that the other day, while replying to the debate on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, the hon. Finance Minister told the

House that the petroleum prices in this country are decided on the basis of 67 dollars per barrel in the international market, for crude oil. He told the House that once the prices touch that level or come down, automatically, there will be revision of prices of petroleum products in this country.

The hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had also confirmed this and today, on record, in the House, he admitted that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was discussed in the morning.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I just want to emphasize it again. The Minister agreed that it has come down to 61 dollars plus per barrel. So, what is the difficulty in revising it down, at least on par with 67 dollars per barrel?

Now, a strange argument is being brought in saying that the value of rupee has depreciated to 20 per cent. If this kind of arguments is being brought in, the prices of petroleum products would never be brought down, at least in the near future. The worst sufferers are the States in the southern part of the country. We all know that because of the rise in the petroleum products, the prices of all essential commodities are going up. We are at the receiving end. I request the Central Government – since the price has come down to 61 dollars – to immediately revise the prices that have been hiked when the prices went up. So, the Central Government should consider the plight of the ordinary people and bring down the prices of all the petroleum products immediately.

19.28 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS—(Contd.)

(iii) **Re: Need to expedite the setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Patna, Bihar**

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (पटना): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय स्वास्थ्य-मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। पूरे देश में छह अखिल भारतीय अनुसंधान संस्थान (एम्स) खोलने की बात हुई थी। मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र पटना में भी एम्स खोलने की बात कही गई थी। दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण स्थिति है कि लगभग पांच साल पहले इसका काम शुरू हुआ था, लेकिन आज तक केवल चाहरदीवारी का ही निर्माण हुआ है। शिलान्यास के

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

समय एम्स को कार्यरूप में शुरू करने के लिए वर्ष 2009 तक का समय रखा गया था। बिहार में कोई भी उत्कृष्ट अस्पताल नहीं है। इस कारण दिल्ली के एम्स अस्पताल में 60 परसेंट बिहार के लोग अपना इलाज करवाने आते हैं। बिहार में गरीबी है, फटेहाली है इस कारण कई लोग इलाज कराने के लिए दिल्ली आ भी नहीं पाते हैं। बिहार के लोगों को स्वास्थ्य लाभ लेने के लिए बहुत दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ता है। अगर बिहार में एम्स अस्पताल खुल जाएगा, तो न सिर्फ बिहार के लोगों को, बल्कि बिहार से सटे नेपाल, असम तथा आसपास के इलाकों के लोग भी लाभांविता हो सकेंगे। कई बार हमने सदन के माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित कराया है। आश्वासन मिलने के बावजूद भी आज तक इस बारे में तेज रफतार से काम नहीं हो रहा है। पता नहीं यह काम कितने वर्षों में पूरा होगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय: आपने अपनी बात कह दी है। अब आप समाप्त कीजिए। You are now repeating the same thing.

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: कई लोगों के पास दिल्ली इलाज के लिए आने के लिए भाड़े के पैसे नहीं होते हैं। मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हैं, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में उत्तर दें कि कब से काम शुरू होगा और कब काम खत्म होगा। बिहार जैसे गरीब देश में लोगों को इलाज कराने में बहुत परेशानी होती है।

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, hon. Minister is here. He should reply not only to the hon. Member's question but other questions also. I have asked a number of questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister to reply.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana the Government of India intends to start six new AIIMS like institutions in States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh. The CCA had given approval only in 2006. Since then we have been going through a lot of process. One tender was un-responsive. Another tender was a single bidder. We had to go through the project management consultants. In all we have to go through a lot of process and there was a delay. I accept the responsibility for delay on part of my Ministry. Nevertheless, I had again asked them to quicken the process. Finally, I could say that the construction work has started in five out of six AIIMS like institutions,

including Bihar, Orissa and Rajasthan. Except Bhopal, work at other five sites has already begun and at Bhopal the work will start in the beginning of November.

I categorically assure that the work has started and the entire construction work will be over in another two-and-a-half to three years and it will be fully functional. Not only that, we also want to upgrade some more institutions in Northern part of the country. We have added some more institutions, which again after getting the approval we will inform the hon. House.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, since the hon. Minister belongs to Tamil Nadu, he should see to it that Tamil Nadu also has such an institution.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue concerning my constituency regarding the development of Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project....(*Interruptions*)

श्री राम कृपाल यादव: महोदय, मैं स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी को तमाम राज्य के लोगों की तरफ से धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ जिनको इन्होंने उपहार देने का काम किया है। स्वाई जी आप भी मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद दे दीजिए।

श्री खारबेल स्वाई (बालासोर): मैं कई बार मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद दे चुका हूँ।

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, I would like to raise an important issue concerning my constituency regarding the development of Jakhau Fishery Harbour Project. Jhakau port is just near Pakistan on the Western border of the country.

The Government of India had accorded administrative approval to Jakhau Fishery Harbour under hundred per cent Centrally sponsored scheme amounting to Rs. 11.43 crore in May 1993. This harbour was designed in such a way that it could accommodate vessels of Coast Guard, Navy for national security purposes.

However, the construction work of the project got delayed substantially because of the Government of India's pre-condition of obtaining environment clearance before the commencement of construction work resulting in cost escalations twice. The revised cost estimates of Rs. 34.84 crore were submitted by the Government of Gujarat to the Government of India in August 2007. Thus, the approval of the Government of India towards the difference amount of Rs. 23.41 crore is awaited since August 2007.