

in my Constituency and it is called mother industry. This industry is now on the verge of closure.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take it out of BFIR and financial assistance should be provided to it. Supply Orders should be given to it from Bokaro and other places. Pay scales of the workers have not been revised since long. Therefore, their pay scales should be revised. Displaced families should be given employment and the land lying vacant should be returned to the displaced families. The workers of HEC are agitating on these issues.

**(ii) Need to clear Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project of Maharashtra Government.**

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai South) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of traffic is assuming serious proportions in Mumbai with the rapid increase in population. In order to overcome the problem faced by the people of Mumbai, the Maharashtra Government has formulated a Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project.

This project will help in saving petrol/diesel worth Rs. 45 crore. The passengers will reach their destination within 12 minutes in place of 30 minutes. Besides, the vehicular pollution would be reduced sharply and the people will be largely facilitated after broadening of roads.

This project is about construction of Bandra-Worli Nariman Point sea way. The Central Government is requested to clear Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project at the earliest by taking written assurance from the Maharashtra Government.

Therefore, I propose that adequate provision should be made in the Ninth Five Year Plan for this project.

**(iii) Need to restrain Karnataka Government from raising the height of Almatti Dam**

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government for its immediate intervention in the Almatti dam controversy involving the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Karnataka Government has taken a decision to raise the height of the dam to impound more water on its side, thus depriving the tail-end side of Andhra Pradesh its due share of water. The Karnataka Government has ignored these objections and has decided to go ahead with the raising of height of the dam. Union Government has been urged to restrain Karnataka from proceeding with the dam work pending an amicable solution to the crisis. Almatti dam

constructed by Karnataka on the upper reaches of Krishna river would impound 227 TMC of water as against Karnataka's share of 160 TMC. If Karnataka goes ahead with its plan to increase the height of the dam further, the storage capacity would go up by 400 TMC. In such an eventuality, the flow of water into Andhra Pradesh would drastically decrease which would affect power generation at Srisaïlam, the first dam of Krishna in Andhra Pradesh side and affect irrigation in a large area.

I urge upon the Union Government to restrain Karnataka from going ahead with construction of the dam till an amicable settlement between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is reached. Otherwise it will create great resentment in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

**(iv) Need for early settlement of boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka**

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY (Mumbai North-Central) About twenty lakh Marathi speaking people living in Maharashtra-Karnataka Border region are raising their voice in a democratic manner for their justified demand for the last 35 years. Neither the Government of Karnataka is paying any heed to them, nor the Government of Maharashtra is doing anything for them. The Central Government is also not giving any assurance to these countrymen in this regard. This Border Dispute is creating problems in the border States again and again. The linguistic minorities in the region have not been given their due rights. These people have expressed their problems in a democratic manner by staging Hunger-strikes and also making representations. A discussion on the report given by Mahajan Commission in this regard is required to be held in this House.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government to find a way out to solve this Border dispute immediately keeping in view the problems of the people of Maharashtra-Karnataka Border.

**(v) Need to take preventive Measures to check recurring floods in Punjab**

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) I wish to draw the attention of Central Government towards devastating floods in Punjab and adjoining States. Large number of houses have collapsed and crops worth crores of rupees damaged due to floods in Punjab for the last three years regularly. No adequate compensation has been given till now to the victims. The Government should inquire into the matter and make arrangements for preventive

measures to control the recurrence of floods I would like to suggest to the Central Government to take up the matter with the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh to construct a dam on the Gahaggra river. Firstly, it will be helpful to check floods and secondly, the stored water will be used for irrigation.

**(vi) Need to check deforestation in Sunderbans area of West Bengal**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) Sir, Sunderbans area in West Bengal, bordering the Bay of Bengal, was once renowned for its Tiger Project and unique flora and fauna. But unfortunately, it has now fallen on bad days resulting from its deforestation. The bane of the whole problem is that the traders in timber with some local people who are poverty-ridden and ignorant of the resultant damage being caused to their forest wealth as a result of this deforestation are clandestinely getting the trees uprooted and carting them for being sold at a very high price.

It is high time that the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests responsible for the maintenance of the Tiger Project in Sunderbans and its guardian for ecological protection moves in the matter and puts an end to these nefarious trade practices and save the scenic forests from degradation.

Further, Sir, nature is also taking its own toll inasmuch as during the tide, the sand brought by it accumulates and spreads and ultimately uproots the trees. Since the Ministry is also responsible for the preservation of bio-sphere ecology in this region it is high time that it consults some experts and devises some effective measures to check that the sand does not uproot the trees but is utilised more gainfully and purposefully.

**(vii) Need to lay railway line between Chatra and Gaya, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chatra is a very backward district of Bihar which is about 80 km away from Gaya. In the absence of rail route, the people of this district feel difficulty to visit Gaya. Local people have been demanding construction of a rail line from Gaya to Chatra since long. A survey was conducted in this regard earlier but the construction work has not started yet. I am the people's representative of this district. The people of Chatra have urged me to ensure that Chatra is connected by a rail line at the earliest. This is an urgent matter of public interest. It will pave the way for development of this area.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government that District Headquarter Chatra should be connected by a rail line on the priority basis so that the development of the area can start.

14.23 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER**

**(i) Situation arising due to Kala-Azar in Bihar**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Kala-azar is a major public health problem in the States of Bihar and West Bengal. It is spread by the sand fly vector which is predominantly seen in the Gangetic belt, especially to the north of Ganges.

During the current year upto the month of May 196 deaths are reported to have occurred due to Kala-azar in the State of Bihar as against 259 deaths reported in 1995 and 379 deaths reported in 1994. It may be mentioned that both in number of cases and in deaths Kala-azar has shown a declining trend since 1993 upto close of 1995 in the State of Bihar. There has however, been an increase in both cases and deaths over the period January to May, 1996 as compared to the same period last year.

Out of the 196 deaths due to Kala-azar, reported between January and May 1996, the worst affected districts have been Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sitamarhi and Darbhanga.

The increase in the number of the cases in Kala-azar during the first half of 1996 can be attributed to non-spraying of DDT according to the prescribed schedule and the fact that active house-to-house detection and treatment of cases was not carried out adequately.

Health is a State subject and the responsibility of preventing and controlling a disease rests essentially with the State Government. However, the Government of India in the form of a Central Sponsored Scheme provides insecticides and anti-Kala-azar drugs required for the control of this disease to the Government of Bihar. The Central Government further provides technical assistance to the State health authorities in the form of evaluation reports, training and offers guidance on strategies relevant to the situation. The implementation of the Kala-azar control programme nevertheless remains the responsibility of the State Government. This includes meeting the operational costs of insecticidal sprays, prompt detection and treatment of cases as well as meeting the expenditure on the staff component etc.