

[Shri C. Sreenivasan]

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to provide special Central subsidy in lieu of tannery owners' contribution for immediate setting up of Effluent Treatment Plants so that the livelihood of hundreds of workers can be protected and the loss of foreign exchange earned on account of leather export is also prevented.

(xv) Need to declare Patna Airport as International Airport to boost export of agricultural products.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Green vegetables are produced in abundance in the Northern Bihar but the agricultural producers can not earn profit due to lack of sufficient marketing facilities. Last year the production of potato was so much that the farmers could not even arrange the labourers to dump the rotten potatoes. If cargo handling or any other facility is made available at Patna Airport, then these green vegetables can be exported to other countries where the demand is very high. Not only the farmers of the Northern Bihar would get proper remuneration but it would also lead to boost up the exports.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to declare Patna Airport as an International Airport at the earliest, for which an assurance was also given by the then hon. Civil Aviation Minister last year.

(xvi) Need for a Special Package of Financial Assistance to Tornado Victims of Orissa

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Amid the inconsolable cries of the survivors, relief and rescue operations are not satisfactory in the recent tornado victim villages of Orissa. The Government should make a special package of financial assistance for reconstruction of houses, institutions, buildings and immediate provision of drinking water over and above the regular assistance of Prime Minister's Relief Fund and Central Relief Fund.

(xvii) Need to create more Employment opportunities for youths

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Unemployment problem is emerging as the most burning problem of the country. According to the last report published in July, 1997, total number of registered unemployed youth in the country is three crore and ninety-seven lakh. Out of this, West Bengal has registered unemployed youths amounting up to 56 lakh.

The Government of India should take all necessary steps and treat this acute problem on the top priority basis. Employment opportunity is to be created by this Government, otherwise these youths who will be burnt with anger, will be causing agony to the society.

(xviii) Need to Harness the Non-Conventional Energy Sources of Sunderbans in West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): The area, in and around Sunderbans home to the world's largest mangroove swamp and the Royal Bengal tiger is fast emerging as a show-piece of the success that could be achieved by harnessing non-conventional energy sources. The people of the Sagar Island and the Gosaba Island have already been benefitted by renewable energy sources.

I wonder the Government has at this stage carried on surveys in the area for assessing the potential for power generation from non-conventional energy sources such as wind power (54,000 MW) tidal waves (79,000 MW), mini hydel (10,000 MW) bio-mass (35,000 MW) and bio-gas (1 lakh MW).

I would suggest, through you, Sir, that the present emphasis on big projects was not correct in view of the low capacity utilisation and time cost overruns. I would suggest that the Government should immediately take up the task of processing the potential of Sunderbans energy source.

(xix) Need to set up a separate 'Purvanchal' State out of U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : There is disappointment and resentment among crores of people because there is no mention in the national agenda of creating a separate state, the "Purvanchal State" by including 22 districts of eastern U.P. Even after 50 years of Independence, 5 crore 30 lakh people of this area have been suffering from poverty, starvation, illness, shortage, illiteracy and unemployment due to ongoing misplanning. These regions which have total area of 25,844 sq.k.m. and 27 parliamentary constituency had a glorious history in the freedom Movement. This land of Lord Shiva, Rama, Buddha and Mahavir had given a new light and mythological, religious and cultural heritage to the entire world. We have got message and new direction from this land of Sufi Saints and renowned literature. Here 50% of land remain unirrigated though Ganga, Yamuna, Saryu, Rapti, Ghagra, Kuano and big Gandak rivers are-flowing here. Only 12 lakh 8 thousand people of the above area are employed and 31 percent youths of the total population have migrated in search of jobs. The annual per capita income of this