

(ii) Need to check the decline in oil production in oil wells in Gujarat and Bombay off shore

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berrampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to place before the august house an urgent matter of public importance under Rule 377.

According to studies made by a task force, more than 700 oil wells in Gujarat and Bombay High offshore have fallen sick. The production in several other oil wells has declined due to the major constraint of reservoir, defective operational process and inadequate surface facilities.

Oil and Natural Gas Commission have made huge investments in these offshore oil wells. Annual production potential of three million tonnes now remain idle unless if immediate steps are taken to plug the loopholes and revamp the existing management system. Otherwise, several other oil wells will also fall sick. ONGC will not be able to achieve their production target set for the Eighth Plan period. The country which is now facing acute oil crisis, cannot afford further decline in oil production by any public sector oil company.

All problems in the Bombay High and Gujarat oil fields should be identified and necessary steps taken to overcome these problems. The planning exercise should be made more scientific and must have in built provision to account for the slippage. Planning and monitoring cells for each project and region should be established with the participation of grass-root workers. Production planning, which is done two years before the start of the Five Year Plans, must be reviewed and updated, depending upon the reservoir performance and input availability.

In view of this, I urge the Government to analyse and diagnose the cause of falling oil production and take remedial measures to increase production.

(iii) Need to set up electronic telephone exchanges in Pilibhit Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people have been facing great difficulties in my constituency, because the telecommunication system there is continuously going from bad to worse. Nobody has been paying attention to the problems inspite of repeated complaints lodged to the officers there. No action is taken on the complaints lodged by the common man even for months together. Telephones are of no use there.

I would request the honourable Minister that new electronic exchanges may be installed there immediately so that communication system in the area functions properly.

(iv) Need to take steps to control recurring floods in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (Sitapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the report in regard to the flood situation in the country, the total affected area in the year 1960 was 76.3 lakh hectares out of which 26.5 lakh hectares was agricultural land, in 1970 the total affected area was 84.5 lakh hectares, out of which agricultural land was 48.5 lakh hectares. Similarly, in the year 1980 the total affected area was 114.2 lakh hectares out of which agricultural land was 55.5 lakh hectares. It is evident from the above data that the loss due to the floods has been on the increase inspite of the measures taken to control the floods. The document on Seventh Five Year Plan (1985) clearly admits that expenditure on flood control measures in different five year plans has increased and at the same time the total area covered under flood control measures has also gone up. The document has also disclosed that Government has been spending more on flood relief measures than on flood control measures. The matter of concern is not that

there are more floods, but the nature of flood which has been changing and causing more damage. This is the exact position in the Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh where Chauka river is changing its course every year thus causing heavy floods in the area. Besides, Kevani, Gobarhiya, Ghagra and Saryu river flow in Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh due to which major parts of Biswa, Behatas and Laharpur assembly constituencies come under the grip of heavy floods every year. Therefore, I request the honourable Minister for Water Resources to see to it that a survey is conducted in the flood affected area immediately and urgent measures are taken to provide relief to the people in Sitapur district.

(v) **Need to convert Sasaram-Buxar Road, Bihar into a National Highway**

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Sasaram-Buxar road in Bihar is a very old road. It connects the two historical cities of Sasaram and Buxar. At the same time it also connects two States Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Buxar is a prominent commercial and industrial city in Bihar. It is the *Karmbhumi* of Purushottam Ram. It is also a famous and sacred pilgrimage centre. Sasaram is the birth place and *Karmbhumi* of historical man, Shershah Suri. The world famous mausoleum of Shershah Suri also stands here. Sasaram is also a famous industrial city as also business and tourist centre. Many small and big cities also lie on this road. Only one way traffic is allowed on this road. As a result many major accidents take place there.

Keeping in a view, the national importance of this road and the accidents happening there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government of India to approve a plan to convert this road into a National Highway immediately.

(vi) **Need to declare Bhubaneswar Orissa as B-2 grade city**

[English]

SHRISIVAJIPATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): As per the Census Report of 1991, the present population of Bhubaneswar City, the capital of Orissa is 4,11,542. This has now fulfilled the criteria for consideration as a B-2 city as per the recommendation of the Fourth Central Pay Commission.

Earlier also, as per the Third Central pay Commission's Report, it was eligible for declaration as a B-2 city, but the Government did not act at that time and the Central Government employees stationed at Bhubaneswar were deprived of adequate benefit in the shape of house rent and city allowances, etc. The city is costly and apart from its population of 4,11,542, it has a large floating population due to pilgrims and tourists as also due to its administrative importance. The rate of house rent is very high which is beyond the reach of common people and salaried employees. This has caused the growth of slums in and around the city throwing more people to live in these slums.

In view of all these facts, the upgradation of the city is urgently needed. More construction of central pool quarters, enhanced house rent allowance of Central Government employees and more central assistance for housing and other developments of the city is called for.

(vii) **Need to prevent export of raw cotton in order to safeguard the interest of Handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country**

SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): In Tamil Nadu, several people belonging to poor and weaker sections are engaged in tiny and small handloom industry. The existence of handloom industry basically depends on the availability of raw materials such as cotton and yarn.