

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat): Sir, the Malanjhand Copper Project is situated in the adivasi areas of Balaghat district. The Banjar river flows near the project area. This river serves the Adivasis living near the area. The effluent released into the river by the Malanjhand Copper Project has proved fatal for the cattle owned by the Adivasis. This situation has arisen because the project has not installed a pollution control system.

I request that a pollution control system be installed immediately and compensation be provided to farmers for losses suffered in terms of crops and cattle.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana in Bihar are rich in minerals like coal, copper, iron, bauxite and mica. But it is unfortunate that development works could not be undertaken in the area and because of this there is lot of resentment among people. Area of the region is 46 per cent of the total area of Bihar and population is around 12 crore. 40 per cent of the total minerals of the country are found in this region. This region is also rich in forest wealth. A number of rivers originating from hills flow through the region. It is surprising that the region rich in natural wealth is quite poor. This is the reason why on 17-9-90 a memorandum for constitution of a separate State, consisting of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana, was presented to the President by the State unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Memorandum was jointly signed by 6 MPs and 22 MPs of BJP. Just 5 per cent area of the region has been electrified. The number of local and tribal people in employment in Bokaro Steel Plant and in the industries in Hatia, Sindri, Jamshedpur, Fatratu and other cities is negligible. Provision for only 7 per cent has been made in the region. There is shortage of schools and colleges. Transportation facilities are also inadequate. Similarly, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Kodarma and Giridih have not been connected with railway lines. Since British rule

the region has been neglected. Culture of the region is also distinct. Only because of the aforementioned factors it has been demanded that a separate State consisting of Chota Nagpur and Santhal pargana be formed. Unfortunately, the Government of India is not taking interest in according State status to the region, whereas several other demands raised later on for formation of new states have been acceded to. So the people of the region will be compelled to come on the streets in support of the demand for separate State, making the current situation worse. Therefore, I urge that a separate state consisting of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana be constituted before the situation takes a turn for the worst, otherwise the BJP will be compelled to take constitutional measures. In Chota Nagpur life can be totally paralysed and the responsibility for it will rest on the Government. The Government is not paying attention to the situation in which hundreds of people have lost their lives or are dying of cholera in Ranchi and Chota Nagpur. So the Government should take up remedial measures on an urgent basis.

I would like to draw the attention towards one more thing. In the region because of Shortage of electricity and water, 'rangari tax' and goondaism factories have closed down. Therefore, it is requested that the Government should make available electricity and water in the region. From Gola to Ichagarh via Silli, national highway No. 23 is under construction for 25 years and is still nowhere near completion. I thank you for giving me the time to speak.

[*English*]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, postal articles are airlifted from Bombay to Cochin by three Indian Airlines flights. But for the last one month, postal articles are airlifted from Bombay to Trivandrum and then to Cochin by flights which causes a delay of three to four days. So, my request to the Government is as per the earlier practice, the postal articles from Bombay should be directly airlifted to Cochin so that postal