

[Sh. Sartaj Singh]

so far as setting up of Gas-based power plants on the H.B.J pipeline route in Madhya Pradesh is concerned. The H.B.J Gas pipeline passes through approximately 550 kilometres in Madhya Pradesh. The Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board had forwarded proposals to the Union Government for setting up gas-based power plants, but the Union Government did not give its approval to even a single proposal, although it has sanctioned the setting up of 8 power plants in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Rajasthan. It is obvious from this that Madhya Pradesh is being discriminated against.

The proposals include the setting up of Power Plants with a capacity of 550 Megawatt each in Jhabua, Rajgarh, Guna and Gwalior districts. The HBJ pipeline passes through all these four districts. The setting up of these power plants would not only accelerate the development process in Madhya Pradesh, but also considerably reduce the power shortage faced by the country. At present, Madhya Pradesh is facing a power shortage of twenty percent which is expected to rise upto thirty-five percent in the next eight years. Therefore, it is very much important that the Union Government give its approval to the proposals for setting up these gas based power plants. Although the gas pipeline passes through 550 kilometres of Madhya Pradesh, it has been allowed to utilise only ten percent of the gas, while Uttar Pradesh has been given a lion's share of sixty-six percent. It is requested that this anomaly be rectified, as early as possible.

(iv) **Need to set up industries in Dhanduka, Viramgam, Chholera of Ahmedabad district, Gujarat**

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, drought is a regular feature in Dhanduka, Viramgam and Chholera areas of Ahmedabad district and also in Gadhada district. As a result of this, the rural folk are forced to migrate to the cities. Therefore, I request the hon.

Industry Minister to see to it that some or the other industry is set up in these districts with the assistance of the Union Government to provide means of livelihood to poverty stricken villagers of that area. Our Government is committed to the upliftment of the poorer sections of the society. I hope that the necessary provision would be made in the Budget for the current year.

[English]

(v) **Need for early repairing of Jokodia dam on river Brahmani**

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur): Sir, Jokodia Dam was constructed during the British period on the river Brahmani. As a result it was helping not only in transportation from Chandabali to Cuttack on boat but also vast areas of Cuttack and Balasore districts were getting irrigation.

Subsequently this dam has become non-functional. At present the water of Rengali dam passes through the Brahmani into the sea. By repairing Jakodia dam the surplus water of the river can be utilised for irrigating lakhs and lakhs acres of land of Rasalpur, Bari and Jajpur Blocks of Jajpur Sub-division.

Apart from this the surplus water may also pass through the river Baitarani. As a result the irrigated areas of Jajpur sub-division can yield double-crops by getting enough water from the dam at Rudhia on the river Baitarani.

I urge upon the Central Government to help and take quick steps for implementing this project.

(vi) **Need to ameliorate the lot of workers of Coal mining industry**

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol): Sir, the coal mining industry which supplies major part of energy does not show adequate growth despite large doses of mechanisation in

the recent past. Much of the machinery imported at heavy cost proved to be unsuitable to Indian geo-mining conditions. It is adding to the cost of coal produced in our country. The Committee appointed to go into this question has submitted a report but it largely remained unimplemented.

Lakhs of persons were displaced due to taking over of their land for mining operations who have not been given promised jobs and their rehabilitation not attended to.

The subsidence of mining land fire and gas have created several social problems in the coal mining belt and people are living in unhealthy and dangerous environment. The situation is very precarious in Raniganj and Dhanbad Jharia Coal belts.

The commitments given to the workers in Joint Bipartite Committee in coal industry are not implemented by the management. There is acute resentment among the coal miners for non implementation of the pension scheme worked out jointly.

I urge the Government to act expeditiously to set the matters right.

(vii) **Need to expedite the setting up of high power relay station at Anoopgarh, Rajasthan**

SHRIMATI VASINDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar) Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House, and in particular to the notice of the Information and Broadcasting Minister, a most serious matter concerning the people of Rajasthan.

The local residents of the border towns of Rajasthan who share a long border with Pakistan are making an all-out effort to stop the cultural invasion of Pakistan TV and Radio. In the absence of Low Power Transmitters, these people are compelled to watch Pakistan TV/Radio which telecasts/broadcasts biased news items concerning Jammu and Kashmir and has a decidedly communal over-tone. It describes terrorists as Muzahids and brands Indian officers killed by

them as Hindu officers and projects an overall damaging picture of India.

A 10 KV relay station at Anoopgarh had been sanctioned some time ago but, unfortunately, delay in installation has forced the people to start collecting funds and requesting grants from local bodies in order that disc antennas may be purchased to provide free connections for Cable TV so that they are saved from this Pakistani cultural onslaught and also so that the minds of the younger generation that are compelled to catch all this are not poisoned.

In view of this, I request the Government to urgently set up the Anoopgarh relay station and take the necessary/vital steps to stop this cultural invasion by Pakistan.

(viii) **Need to re-open Punalur Paper Mill in Kerala**

SHRI KODIKKUNJI SURESH (Adoor) Sir, Punalur Paper Mill is the only industry of Adoor constituency of Kerala. It has been closed due to the appointment of Receiver by Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited. Five thousand workers of the mill, one thousand employees working in the mill and four thousands in force are starving. Punalur towns economy has been adversely affected. If the mill is reopened it will contribute Rs. five crores sale tax to the State Government and Rs. ten crores excise duty to the Union Government.

The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited have initiated proceedings for selling machines of the mill. Advertisement to that effect has appeared in news papers. I request the Union Government to intervene in the matter and reopen the Punalur Paper Mill.

I also request the Government to immediately give due notice to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India to withdraw the Receiver and reopen the mill.