

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise this matter under rule 377 that Himachal Pradesh was getting 90% central assistance as grant and remaining 10% as loans under the recommendation of the Finance Commission. As a result of this Himachal Pradesh was making progress and the State Government had no difficulty in going ahead with its economic development programmes, educational programmes and other such programmes for the people of the State, but due to sudden stoppage of central assistance to the state, the developmental work in the state has been adversely affected. As Himachal Pradesh is a very backward state, it is required to be given continuous central assistance as is being done in the case of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to mention this also that at the time of the formation of Himachal Pradesh, the Central Government had made a provision in the said manner for the development of the state.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to impress upon the Finance Commission to provide economic assistance to Himachal Pradesh as in the past and also provide an amount of Rs. 300 crores immediately as central assistance in order to enable the State Government continue the on-going development works.

(iii) Need to Clear Pending Thermal Power Projects of Rajasthan

[English]

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR (Bhilwará): Rajasthan being a land-locked State has to depend for its supply of water for drinking purposes on the inter-State Projects of Punjab rivers like Ravi, Beas and

Satluj. The State also does not have any deposit of coal; as such for feeding the Thermal Power Stations located in Rajasthan. The coal has to be transported from distant areas of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Taking into consideration the prospective needs of power, there is going to be a shortfall of 400 MW between demand and generation capacity of power by the turn of the century. In order to meet this gap proposals were initiated in the years of 1984-1988 for installation of Thermal Power Projects in the State itself and on the basis of the survey conducted by Tata Consultancy, four big powers houses at Suratgarh, Chittorgarh, Mandalgarh and Dholpur having 450 MW capacity each were proposed to the Ministry of Energy, Power and Planning Commission, Government of India and the same were being processed vigorously. But the proposals are still pending. I, therefore, request the Central Government to consider the proposals in view of their importance for the development of Rajasthan and clear the same during the Eighth Plan period.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Sir, I support this entirely.

MR. SPEAKER: You can do it while speaking on the President's Address, at length.

(iv) Need to Sanction adequate funds for the improvement National Highway Running from Birmitrapur to Banarpal in Orissa.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (SUNDARGARH): I draw the kind attention of the Government on the precarious condition of the national Highway running from Birmitrapur to Banarpal in Orissa. The highway is the shortest link way between the industrial steel city Rourkela and the State capital, Bhubaneswar. But the highway is