

[*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 (Bhilwarā): 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

[Km. Frida Topno]

not being properly maintained. The highway runs through most backward parts of my district. Though the area is rich in mineral resources with largest deposit of iron ore, industrial houses are not attracted to set up industries due to the precarious condition of the highway area in spite of our liberalisation policy. Improvement of this national Highway is, therefore, a prerequisite to attract industrial houses to set up industries in this most undeveloped area.

(v) Need to Withdraw Permission granted to Foreign Companies for fishing in Indian Waters.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has granted permission to foreign multinational companies for fishing in the Indian sea water. These companies with the help of ultra modern machines and trawlers catch fish in large quantities. Not only this, these companies send their fishing boats to the sea water used by the Indian fishermen. Consequently, about 3 lakh fishermen have been rendered jobless because these companies catch as much fish in one day as the Indian fishermen can catch in 30 days.

The fishermen living on coastal areas such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have lodged their strong protest against this decision. Especially, the lives of fishermen of Gujarat have become deplorable as all fishermen of Gujarat depend solely on this for their livelihood.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to withdraw the permission granted to foreign companies for fishing in Indian waters with a view to safeguarding the interests of fishermen.

There is no need for allowing the multinational companies to enter into such a small field as this. These fishermen who fish with their small equipment should also be provided central assistance. A fishing port should be constructed at Ubargaon and Vasiborsi in Gujarat. If the Government does not withdraw the permission granted to foreign companies, lakhs of jobless fishermen will start an agitation against the Government.

(vi) Need for Early Renovation of Jokadiha Anicut Project on River Kharasrota in Orissa.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS

(JAJPUR): Jokadiha Anicut on the river Kharasrota which was constructed during the British era with a view to supply water to thousands of hectares of cultivating land of almost all the eight blocks like Rasulpur, Dharmasala, Korei, Jajpur, Sukinda, Dandagadi, Dasarathpur and Binjharpur in the newly formed district of Jajpur in Orissa. But, as work for the development of the project has not been taken up since long, it fails to serve any purpose now. When the Rengali Multipurpose Project was taken up, it was said that the renovation work of the Jokadiha Anicut alongwith the high level canal and extension of the same upto Danagadi, Sukinda and Korei blocks would also be taken up at the same time, but nothing has been done in this regard so far. The people of these areas almost depend upon agriculture and have no alternative source of income from other sources. It is worth mentioning that scarcity of water in times of need has always endangered the very economic existence of the millions of cultivators there. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister, Water Resources to do the needful in the completion of renovation and extension of the project.