

(Cannanore) : Sir, Although assurance by the Government to set up a High Power T.V. Transmitter at Cannanore in Kerala was given a long time back, the work on the same is yet to commence. The people are deeply disappointed of work on this inordinate delay in commencement of work on this prestigious project. The benefit of this transmitter is expected to reach out to several, lakhs of people even in the neighbouring districts.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to give the matter urgent attention and ensure early commencement of work on the promised T.V. transmitter at Cannanore.

(ii) Need for Early Settlement of the Problems of People Ousted as a result of Acquisition of their Land by Western Coalfields Limited in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur) : Sir, Western Coalfields Limited, which is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited has acquired the land of the farmers from the Padmapur, Bhatali, Mingaon, Sastri, Gowari, Bhadangpur, Pauni, Kawadi and Ghugus villages of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, for its various projects. Near about 4,782 families from these villages are affected due to land acquisition by Western Coalfields Limited. The persons of these villages affected by the project are demanding payment of reasonable compensation for agricultural land, rehabilitation of villagers because of acquisition, and employment opportunities to the affected persons. Although several meetings have been held in the past between the Coal India authorities and the State Government of Maharashtra, nothing concrete has come out yet. Government of Maharashtra has approached the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, with their recommendations to break the impasse in settling the problems of the land oustees and the matter is pending with the Government.

I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate decision in this matter so that the problems of the land oustees are sorted out without delay.

(iii) Need to set up a Full-Fledged Circle Office or Archaeological Survey of India in Kerala

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram) : Sir, Kerala has a rich collection of cultural monuments in the form of temples, churches, synagogues, mosques, palaces, forts etc. These are decaying by way of demolition, reconstruction and material decay due to want of proper conservation. Even after 125 years of its existence, Archaeological Survey of India is also not able to cover the whole of the country, as far as excavation and exploration of ancient historical sites are concerned. Then archaeological Survey of India does not even have its full-fledged Circle for the State. Almost every State

in India has a full-fledged Circle Office of the Archaeological Survey of India. Circle Offices mooted along with Kerala have become functional at Jaipur, Chandigarh, Luknow and Guwahati.

I request the Union Government to give priority this year by providing appropriate financial resources for setting up a new Circle Office of Archaeological Survey of India in Kerala.

(iv) Need to withdraw move to Shift Directorate of Regional Publicity from Ranchi, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Ruel 377, I would like to inform that many offices of the Central Government located in the tribal areas of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas of Bihar are being shifted elsewhere. This move is adversely effecting the development work of this area. The Government sets up offices in these areas after extensive survey etc. at many levels. These Offices function for some time and thereafter are shifted elsewhere. The regional office of Science and Technology, the Press Notice Office, Film and Studio, National Film Development Corporation, Railway wagon factory, two Kendriya Vidyalaya Examination Committee Cells and Civil cell of A.I.R. have similarly been shifted from Ranchi. Now, it is the turn of Directorate of Regional Publicity.

The Federation of Central Government Employees have launched an agitation against this move. Such situations give birth to problems like that of Jharkhand. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government not to shift the Directorate of Regional Publicity.

(v) Need to augment crushing capacity of Sugar Mills

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a large scale production of sugarcane in my constituency. The whole yield of sugarcane could not be crushed even after running mills till 20th August in 1991-92.

Whereas in 1995-96 there has been a 35 percent increase in sugarcane production as compared to that of last year and 50 percent increase as compared to the production of 1991-92. The sugarcane crop of the farmers will be left uncrushed even after running Sugar mills upto August in case the mills are not accorded permission for augmenting their crushing capacity commensurate to sugarcane production.

The farmers of my constituency are incurring huge losses because they are getting only Rs.45 per quintal as procurement price for their crop at Kolhus and crushers in place of Rs. 75 per quintal owing to excessive production of sugarcane which has overloaded the Mawana Sugar Mill. The Sugar Mill of my constituency, Mawana has also augmented its capacity.