

(v) Need for a 'Gem Park' In Bolangir district of Orissa

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Sir, although a lot of semi-precious stones are now available in Orissa especially in Bolangir, Phulbani and Kalahandi districts, yet extraction of these precious stones has not been taken up systematically. A large number of local people and also people from the adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are engaged in the extraction of these precious stones. Many traders and smugglers from far off States like Rajasthan and Gujarat camp in Western Orissa to buy the precious stones. Unless Government undertakes systematic extraction work, the illegal way of extracting and selling of these precious stones, will go unabated. For a systematic extraction of these precious stones, a Gem Park may be established in Western Orissa. The Government of Orissa has also submitted a proposal to the Diamond and Gem Development Corporation to set up a Gem Park in Orissa on the same lines as in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. This Gem Park will utilise the abundantly available local gem stones, encourage a large number of local entrepreneurs and local artisans to get gainful employment.

As such, I request the Ministry of Commerce to set up a Gem Park at Bolangir in Western Orissa.

(vi) Need to locate the proposed Regional Office of the Environment and Forests Ministry at Calcutta as decided earlier

DR. ASIMBALA (Nabadwip): Sir, it was earlier decided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests that the Ministry will establish a regional office at Calcutta. But it is now learnt that the Ministry is going to set up an official Committee to decide the matter. This is against the Ministry's earlier decision.

I request the Government of India to establish the proposed regional office at

Calcutta as decided earlier.

[Translation]

(vii) Need for grant of licence for setting up a sugar mill in Nawabganj Tehsil of district Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane is grown in abundant in the Nawabganj tehsil of Bareilly district. For the last so many years, local farmers have been demanding a sugar mill there. During these years the State Government has also conceded many times that this demand is genuine and in June, 1989 the then Chief Minister publically announced that licence will soon be issued by the Central Government for setting up the sugar mill. The work of selecting a site had also been taken up. But now we have come to know that only assurances were made and in reality nothing was done in that direction. Due to this, the people of Nawabganj are very much agitated and the situation can take an ugly turn any moment. In the absence of a sugar mill the farmers of the area are being economically exploited. Even today, sugarcane is being sold at the rate of Rs. 15 per quintal there. Even after that the entire sugarcane is not being lifted from the fields and the condition of the farmer is going from bad to worse.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to accept this genuine demand of the Nawabganj area and issue the licence for setting up the sugar mill there immediately.

12.24 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - *CONTD.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up the continued discussion of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.