

[Sh. Sudhir Giri]

Government of West Bengal has earlier sent a proposal to the Union Government for declaring the "Digha -Contai-Mecheda Road" as National Highway and do the needful.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need for Introducing helicopter service at Subsidised rates in Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI MOHD. HASSAN COMMANDER (Ladakh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards the non-introduction of helicopter service in my constituency of Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir which borders China and Pakistan. This service was sanctioned quite sometime back.

This area is such that due to continuous snowfall, roads are blocked, with the result that this area is cut off from the rest of the country for 7-8 months and all road links are severed. It is on account of the heavy demand of lakhs of people of this area that the Central Government had sanctioned ME-17 helicopter belonging to the Indian Air Force for 50 hours of operation in this area in a month. However, this scheme has not been implemented so far.

The people of this area are mostly poor and backward. That is why most of the people have been awarded with the status of scheduled tribes as well. The people have to face immense difficulties on this account. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that keeping in view their poverty and difficulties helicopter service already sanctioned at subsidised rates should be introduced at the earliest.

(vi) Need for amending the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for a speedy development of the hilly areas in the Nasik district of Maharashtra

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there

is an urgent need to provide employment to the people in Maharashtra, especially in district Nasik, but due to Forest Conservation Act 1980, many development works such as the construction of ponds, small dams, roads etc. have come to a standstill. The means of communication have also come to a standstill. All the development works in the area have been held up. Many development works which were started earlier have been stalled. Crores of rupees have already been spent on them. Therefore, I would request that a little relaxation should be provided in the above mentioned act so that employment could be generated and the people may not have to starve. The held-up projects may also be completed and fresh development works may be taken up.

[*English*]

(vii) Need for adequate steps meet the drinking water problem in Madras city

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (Madras Central): The people of Madras are facing acute shortage of drinking water. The people have to wait for a long time in queue for drinking water near the street taps. In fact most of the poor ladies belonging to poor families spend most of their night times in standing in the queues to collect drinking water from the Corporation tap sacrificing their normal comforts. Whatever little quantity of water available now may not be available during summer season, especially, in the months of May and June.

There were days, I would like to recall, when water was carried by trains from Vijayawada to Madras city to meet the challenge of drought.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate adequate steps to ensure proper supply of drinking water to the people of Madras City and, in particular to the people of Central Madras as this is the area where poor people predominantly reside.