

[Sh. Laete Umbrey]

relating to National Highway No. 52 to further connect the National Highway No. 37 at Rupai in Tinsukia District of Assam via East Siang, Dibang Valley and Lohit Districts of Arunachal Pradesh is too slow.

12.56 hrs.

[SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*]

As per Plan, the work was to be completed within the Seventh Five-Year Plan, but unfortunately, even the alignments in some of the portions in Arunachal Pradesh were not completed in the last Five-Year Plan. The construction of bridge over river Siang has been started last year only, whereas there are a number of big rivers where bridges are to be constructed immediately to ensure that the road will be completed within this Five-Year Plan. On completion, this will be the only National Highway passing through the State. Therefore, it is urged that adequate funds be provided on higher priority and the work be completed soon.

- (ii) **Need to allocate more funds during Eighth Five Year Plan for construction of Hipparagi Dam across Krishna river**

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga): Sir, it was planned in the year 1972 to construct a dam at Hipparagi across Krishna river. This project would irrigate 50506 hectares in Athani, Cickodi, Jamakhand and their neighbouring Taluka. The estimated cost of this project has risen from 45 crores to 187 crores of rupees. This project was included in the 7th Plan but there are no signs of any progress in this project.

The northern parts of Belgaum and Bijapur districts are drought-prone areas and the Government is spending several crores of rupees for the drought relief programmes, almost every year. Instead of such temporary relief programmes, it is high time to

complete Hipparagi project which would provide a permanent solution to the areas of North Karnataka. It will also enable the State to utilize its share of Krishna water.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to allocate more funds for this project in the 8th Plan and to complete the project without any further delay.

- (iii) **Need to construct an airport at Shirdi in Maharashtra**

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, the Government is fully aware of the religious importance of Shirdi in Maharashtra which is attracting thousands of tourists from abroad and other States in our country. It is essential that for the convenience of foreign tourists an airport at Shirdi is constructed as early as possible. It will result in earning of a lot of foreign exchange for us.

The importance of Shirdi will increase more by linking this pilgrimage city with other States and countries abroad.

I request the Government to construct an airport at Shirdi at the earliest.

- (iv) **Need to allot the land earmarked for forests to the landless people in Rajasthan**

[*Translation*]

SHRI BEGA RAM (Ganganagar): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Central Government had announced in 1962 to plant trees on the forest land. The Centre had directed the State Governments to leave the uncommand area for the forest department. At the present, lakhs of acres of land in Rajasthan is lying vacant along the Indira Gandhi Canal. There are no trees on this land. It is also not used as pasture land. In Rajasthan, there are lakhs of landless people. That vacant forest land should be allotted to the landless people and to the Harijans on priority basis.