

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

authorities under the provisions of this Act. This has not only seriously affected the development of these regions, but it has also cast its dark shadows on the national policy of afforestation. The local people are no more cooperating in afforestation programmes. The problems and difficulties being faced by the people are being ignored, due to this Act. In 1980-81, approval was given to build the Champawat Manch Motorway in the Pithoragarh District of Uttar Pradesh. This was a place from where people had to walk a distance of about forty kilometres to reach the nearest road head. Despite the forceful and repeated pleas of the local people in this regard since the date of approval to date, the authorities have denied permission under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act. Not just this one, but hundreds of such similar cases can be found in this region.

I request the Union Government and the Minister of Environment and Forests to relax the provisions of this Act. It should not affect the construction work on small and medium projects. The approval of the Central Government should be made obligatory, only if it concerns more than twenty hectares of forest land. Approval for projects requiring less than twenty hectares of the land should be left at the discretion of the State Governments.

383  
(ii) Need for formation of a Cashew Board (MOR 377)

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR  
(Quilon): As it is well known, cashew is an important commercial crop of India and one of the major export items of the country accounting for nearly Rs. 350 crores per year. At present, there are several agencies at Central and State level dealing with various aspects of cultivation, processing and export of cashew, functioning without proper coordination. There is pressing need for having one

single agency on the same basis as of the Tea Board, Coffee Board, Coir Board, Spices Board etc.

As Member of Parliament representing Quilon constituency where more than 80 per cent of the cashew industry is concentrated, I had repeatedly represented the matter and the Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture had been actively considering the formation of a Cashew Board from March, 1988.

The two lakh cashew factory workers in Kerala, get less than 100 days work in a year and the Cashew Board can create conditions in which they could get employment for a minimum period of 300 days in a year. Immediate action on the lines of the licensing system introduced by State Governments such as West Bengal and Maharashtra should be taken. The Central Government should protect the cashew industry and its workers by formation of the Cashew

Board.  
384 *Uttar Pradesh*  
(iii) Need to take steps to check recurring floods in Mohanlal Ganj (U.P.) (MOR 377)

[Translation]

SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ  
(Mohanlal Ganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this August House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood situation in the Lucknow, Unnao, Gosaiganj, Sarojini Nagar, Mall, Malihabad, Kakori, Purwa, Asoha and Hiloli development blocks under Mohanlal Ganj Parliamentary constituency. The rivers including Gomti, Sai, Beta, Nagwa Nullah and many others, their tributaries and other big rivulets and lakes like Shrawantal, Teelan and Sanspan flow through these areas. Whenever the water level in these rivers rise, the natural fall out is floods which play havoc with life and property and even now the situation is grim and thousands of families have been ruined and normal life has been thrown into a disarray.

In this regard, I request the Central Government to find a concrete solution to this problem like the construction of bridges over these rivers. The bridges can be constructed at Kakori-Bahru road across Betwa Nullah, at Mall-Dubgga Road, Helua Ghat, Andha Chowki-Navi Panah, Garhi Chunauti Marg across Nagwa Nullah, at Dipalli over River Sai, between Shivpuri and Barauna, at Ghatampura between Sohramao and Hassanganj. A pantoon bridge needs to be constructed at Manjhi Chandika Devi over River Gomti. Sir, many of these bridges were sanctioned by the Government, but construction work on them could not be taken up due to financial constraints.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to send a Central team to assess the damages and also to provide the necessary financial assistance to the State Government to build dams on those rivers and to dredge the lakes. In this regard, I would also request that the Government should formulate a long term plan with the assistance of the World Bank.

385  
(iv) Need to check smuggling of domestic animals from Bihar and other parts of the country to Bangladesh (1702377)

SHRI YUVRAJ (Katihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, smuggling of healthy and well-built cattle including bullocks and buffaloes to Bangladesh via West Bengal has been taking place for the past many years. These cattle are brought from the cattle markets of Kheria and Mansai in Katihar District and the cattle markets of the neighbouring districts of Purnea, Araria and Kishanganj and also from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Our precious cattle wealth is getting depleted in this manner and this in turn has affected our economy. Earlier also, I had drawn the attention of the Government towards this direction but no effective steps have so far been taken. I have made this submission to press for an immediate remedy to this problem.

386  
(v) Need to provide financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government for development of the tribal areas of the State (1402377)

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in comparison to other states of the Union, Madhya Pradesh is the most backward state. The State has a large population of Scheduled Tribes. Majority of its districts are tribal dominated. Development has not made its presence felt in these areas, even decades after independence. Even large villages have not been connected with roads and if anywhere it has been built, culverts and bridges have not been provided for, as a result of which these areas remain cut-off from the rest of the world during rainy season. Moreover, in these areas, there are no dispensaries, School buildings, provision for drinking water, wells or tube wells, and even if there are some wells, they are dry. Due to the lack of resources at its disposal, the State Government has not been able to carry out the said development works. The people in these areas are living below the line of poverty. Only nominal development work has taken place in the tribal development blocks of the Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh. Hundreds of villages are without roads, culverts, bridges, schools, dispensaries and potable water facilities. It won't be possible for the Madhya Pradesh Government to carry out these works with the scarce resources at its disposal.

Therefore, in order to accelerate the pace of development and welfare programmes for the Scheduled Tribes and to improve their living standards, the Madhya Pradesh Government has sought financial assistance from the Centre. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to provide the desired assistance to the State Government, as grant-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India, under article 275 of the Constitution