

[Shrimati Vyjayantimala Bali]

be given concessions on the 1st class Railway and air journeys. I request the Government to consider these requests favourably.

(ii) Need to declare Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, as 'drought-prone area' and provision of funds for exclusion of Rural Water Supply Schemes

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Sir, Arakkonam, in my constituency, covers mostly rural areas under Sholinghur, Pallipat, Ranipet, Katpadi talukas, lakhs of people living there are engaged in agricultural work, daily wages earners, wavers, tannery workers etc. They are mostly backward and belong to weaker sections of the society. They have been facing acute drinking water problem. They are finding it extremely difficult to get drinking water, leave alone finding water for other use. The underground water table is so scarce that even after boring the ground for 250 ft. or 300 ft. deep, water source is bleak.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government may declare these areas as drought prone areas and immediately arrange to provide funds for execution of rural water supply schemes in these areas on priority basis. The rural water supply schemes can be taken up and executed by the military personnel drawn from the Madras Regiment who can complete the work expeditiously.

(iii) Needs to set up, Fisheries University in Kerala

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): It is learnt that the Government of India proposes to set up a University of fisheries. Kerala has a strong case for establishment of university of fisheries.

Kerala is the leading producer of marine products. The State has the highest population of fishermen in the country. The State have also pioneered several new ventures

as the shrine hatchery at Azhikode and the sea farm at Malapuzha. A number of Central institutes such as Central Marine fisheries Research Institute, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology etc. are located in Kerala.

In view of these facilities already existing, the University will be able to operate successfully right from its inception.

In the light of the above facts, I request the Government to set up a fisheries university in Kerala.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to set up mineral based industry in Chhota Nagpur (Bihar) to provide employment to unemployed youth

SHRI JORAWAR RAM (Palamau): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chhota Nagpur region which is predominantly inhabited by the tribals, Harijans and other backward communities, is an immeasurable storehouse of innumerable minerals. Despite this, development is a dream for this area because none of the Governments which have been hitherto in power, has formulated any plans with a specific view for the development of this area. As a result thereof, the people of this region have been indulging in separatist and parochial politics in the name of Jharkhand and Bananchal movements.

Particularly in Palamau, there are vast deposits of coal, farnicle, Lime stone, Dolomite, Magnetite, Graphite, China clay, Bauxite, Granite, Felspar, and quartz Marble. Pata, Lac and Mahua trees are also found in large numbers in Palamau. Unemployed youth could be provided with employment by setting up Mineral—based industries in this area.

(v) Need to provide jobs to trained apprentices in Ordinance factories

SHRI BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the

past many years, trade apprentices are being imparted training and on the successful completion of such a training they are absorbed in service by the ordnance factories. Till 1985, the trained young trade apprentices upto 22nd Batch had been absorbed in service by the ordnance factories and thereafter, a restriction was imposed on the new recruitments.

For the last five years, many such trade apprentices are jobless, even after undergoing the said training.

During the past few years, a system of purchases from the private sector has been in vogue in the ordnance factories and a major portion of their spare parts' and machineries' requirements are being purchased from the private parties. While on the one hand, this has encouraged corruption, on the other, the number of unemployed, trained, trade apprentices is also increasing on that account.

I would like to request the hon. Defence Minister to stop forthwith the ordnance factories' practice of making purchases from private factories and also to provide jobs to these thousands of trained trade apprentices, who have remained unemployed.

[English]

(vi) Need to direct ONGC to explore oil potential in Bengal basin

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, according to experts, the Bengal Basin is positively believed to have a very large oil reserve. ONGC has also admitted this. A section of Geologists, some of them involved in exploration work since the days before the birth of ONGC maintain that the Bengal Basin has actually given indication of nearly 28.5 billion metric tonnes or 28,500 MMT which can put some Middle-Eastern countries in shade. But in spite of this very large deposit of oil and gas in Gangetic West Bengal, authorities like ONGC have been consistently showing a very indifferent attitude in the matter of drilling. Only a few drillings in the Bengal Basin have so far been

undertaken.

In a recent seminar organised by the West Bengal Science Forum held in the Geology Department of Calcutta University, the matter has been discussed in some detail. In a subsequent discussion more details in the matter have come out. For a country like India whose oil import bill is about Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 7,000/- every year, no further neglect of this great oil potential of the Bengal Basin should be allowed.

I would urge upon the Government of India to immediately ask the ONGC to take up the matter in right earnest.

(vii) Need to launch dredging operations for desilting rivers in Sunderbans Area of West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while nature was bounteous to the Sunderbans area in West Bengal by giving it scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna, it remains poverty-ridden. Only profession for its inhabitants is small-time agriculture and that too on the mercy of the rains and rivulets which are fed by the high tidal waves from the adjacent Bay of Bengal. All these rivulets are highly silted and the water does not pass through their sluice gates to the fields which are situated on the lower level. These rivulets which are becoming cause of sorrow for these small agriculturists—who do not have any other means of livelihood pass through Canning, Basanti, Ghoshaba, Kultali Police stations in the Sunderbans area. Now, Sir, it is high time that the Government launch upon a dredging scheme for these rivers/rivulets and remove the accumulated silt. Sir, as you know, the West Bengal State is already in the grip of acute industrial unemployment and is unable to spare any sizeable funds for desilting operations in these rivulets.

I, therefore, request the Central Government kindly to come to the rescue of the poor inhabitants of these areas and launch upon desilting operations before it is too late.