

consequence of the denudation of forests.

[*Translation*]

I therefore, earnestly request the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests to ban use of forest land for non-forest purposes in Kerala and to see that the same is strictly enforced.

12.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(ii) Need for converting the Main Central Road in Kerala into a National Highway

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Main Central Road (M.C. Road) is one of the important roads in Kerala. It starts from Angamaly, Ernakulam district and ends in Trivandrum. Actually, this road is a parallel road to the National Highway 47, covering Kottayam, Pathyanemthitta, Alleppey and Quilon districts. I request the Central Government to convert this road into a National Highway.

(iii) Need for constructing another airport near Cochin

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): A modern airport having the facility to land Air Bus, is a long cherished desire of the people of Cochin. Cochin being the industrial capital of Kerala, attracts a large number of people from different parts of the country and abroad. Among the national airports, Cochin airport stands 7th in the collection of revenue. But, the present airport being a naval airfield, has the facility to receive only Boeing aircrafts. There was a proposal from the Civil Aviation Ministry to strengthen the present runway to enable landing of Air Bus 320. But the work of strengthening the runway has been delayed. As it is difficult to expand the present airfield due to constraints caused by the Cochin port, it is requested that a new airport may be constructed in another place near the city. There is enough space at Kalamassery in the possession of H.M.T. Unit, which can be used for developing the new airport.

(iv) Need to complete construction of dam over the river Kosi between Dargia and Phubian in Bihar

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera): Sir, approval was given to the construction of Dargia Phubian dam on the Kosi river in Bihar in 1978; but work on it was later stopped in 1980, and since then the dam is lying incomplete due to which hundreds of villages in the surrounding areas get submerged during floods, causing heavy loss of life and property. The areas affected mainly by the floods include Hasanpur Sindhia in district Samastipur and Ghanshyampur Viro and Kusheshwar in district Durgapur.

So, I urge the Central Government to restart the construction work on this dam.

[*English*]

(v) Need to treat lawyers in the special category in the matter of allowing telephone connections

CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR (Jhunjhunu): In the matter of allotment of new telephone connections all over the country, priority is extended to certain well-defined categories—that of industry, doctors, midwives, etc. They are entitled to new telephone connections in special category. Such a facility is not available to the members of the legal faculty. There can be no dispute that lawyer are engaged in discharge of public functions and are to maintain constant communications with the litigants. In the present times, litigants are required to be in touch with the lawyers from considerable distance. There is all the more compelling necessity for a lawyer to have easy communication. In such a situation, it will be extremely desirable to treat lawyers as a class in the special category in the matter of allotment of new telephone connections. I strongly urge the Government to take necessary steps towards this direction speedily.