

on the anvil.

Sir, the diamond industry in Gujarat and elsewhere in the country should be ready to absorb the new technology as it will give a boost to the diamond industry in Gujarat.

It is an important task in which there should be a meaningful collaboration between the Union Government and the State Government to ensure that Rs. 5000 crore worth of net foreign exchange, which the industry now earns, does not go down and instead, is recognised in a manner that there is an increase in export earnings in real terms every year. If proper care and new technology is not introduced there is a threat from new entrants in the field.

Sir, in view of this, I urge the Government that it should assist the Gujarat diamond industry to introduce new technology to ensure the earnings of foreign exchange.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to stop cancellation of allotments in labour colonies in Kanpur, U.P.**

SHRI KESHARI LAL (Ghatampur) : Kanpur is one of the major towns in the country where important Government and non-Government organisations have been established. Therefore a large number of labour colonies have been set up there. The allotments of houses of these labour colonies are being cancelled without serving due notice which has caused great resentment among the labour.

Hence, I request the Central Government to intervene in this matter and stop the cancellation of allotment of these houses. The houses should be allotted to the members of the families of the Government employees who have retired if such members are in Government service. This will remove the feeling of insecurity and resentment that is prevailing among the labour.

- (v) **Need for necessary assistance to Rajasthan Government to meet drinking water problem particularly in Ajmer**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Entire Rajasthan has been facing acute shortage of drinking water. The situation will get worse in the coming summer. The situation is very grave in Ajmer district. The water supply Department supplies water through taps in Ajmer, Byawar, Kishangarh and Nasirabads for about half-an-hour in three days. Due to continuous drought for the last five years water sources including hand-pumps have dried up, and water-level in the wells has gone down. Water-borne diseases have spread in some areas due to intake of untreated water. The Central Government should provide special economic and technical assistance to Rajasthan Government to enable it to meet the situation. The Visalpur Water Supply Scheme should be completed on a war footing.

[Translation]

- (vi) **Need to utilise the bus service between Gobichettipalayam (Tamil Nadu) and Mysore (Karnataka) for early delivery of mail**

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : It takes only 5 hours to travel from Gobichettipalayam in Tamil Nadu to Mysore in Karnataka. But postal service from Gobichettipalayam are presently routed through Railway Mail Service. Under the Railway Mail Service, mails have to go to Erode and from Erode to Bangalore and from Bangalore to Mysore, taking nearly four days for delivery of mail. This is causing great inconvenience to public, particularly businessmen face serious hardship because of inordinate delay in delivery of mails. I would request the Government to employ bus service for carriage of mails so that it takes lesser time in delivery of mails.