

[Prof. P. Kurien]

for their sacrifice for the freedom of the country. The ex-service men who too have spent the prime of their life on the battlefield to protect the motherland are also paid pension. However, there is one category of ex-servicemen who participated in the Second World War. Theirs was no less a sacrifice than that of the freedom fighters or the ex-servicemen. They too fought for the country perhaps under more trying circumstances. We seem to have forgotten those heroes. Their number is shrinking day by day, but their case deserves our attention.

I would request the Government to consider favourably giving of pension to the ex-servicemen of the Second World War.

[*Translation*]

(III) Need to set up industries in industrially backward Saharsa district of Bihar

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman Sir, the Saharsa district of Bihar is a backward district from industrial point of view. The Government of India had directed the State Government to submit a list of backward districts of Bihar. The State Government sent a list of 10 districts and Saharsa is one of them which is quite backward. The unemployment problem has assumed alarming proportion in this district which has a population of 35 lakhs.

I urge upon the Central Government to set up at least four industries—1 jute mill, 1 plastic bag factory and 2 sugar mills in this district. At present the raw material which is available in this district is sent outside. It is hoped that the Government will take prompt action in this regard.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to provide funds to Orissa to repair the breaches caused by floods in Bolangir district in 1982.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir):

Sir, Bolangir district was devastated by floods in 1982. Government of Orissa has admitted in its reports that 800 spill cuts and breaches have resulted from this flood. From 1982 to 1990, only 48 spill cuts and breaches have been repaired. The rest 759 are yet to be plugged. Government of Orissa has been taking the plea that these cannot be closed due to paucity of funds. The repair of these spill cuts and breaches is of great importance as far as the economy of the district is concerned. If these are not repaired immediately, in another flood, a large number of villages would be washed out and large tract of agricultural land would be sand cast as has happened in 1982.

Standing crops would also be damaged. Due to heavy deforestation, the river beds are silted and have come up. People of Bolangir live under the constant panic of flash floods.

I request Government of India to survey the spill cuts and breaches of Bolangir district in Orissa, estimate the projects and allot special funds to remove the ugly scars of 1982 flood.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to give financial assistance to Rajasthan to remove scarcity of drinking water and for lift irrigation projects

SHRI NATHU SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, Rajasthan is the second largest state in the country according to its area and fifth according to its population. Water scarcity is the gravest problem in Rajasthan because in other parts of the country water is available at a depth of 50 feet whereas in Rajasthan water is available only at 400-500 feet deep. The average rainfall in Rajasthan is only 2-10 inches and only one percent water of the total water of the country is available in Rajasthan and only 21 per cent area is under irrigation. The scarcity of drinking water is so acute that people have to travel many miles to fetch water. In many places the people have to suffer from many dreaded diseases because pure drinking water is not available.