

The number of physically handicapped persons is the largest in the country.

Rajasthan comes at 19th place so far as central assistance is concerned whereas it needs the maximum assistance. The number of handpumps being installed in villages of Rajasthan is totally inadequate and the Central Government should provide more funds for providing more pure drinking water in Rajasthan.

(vi) Need to settle the dispute between workers and management in BALCO

SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO: Mr. Chairman Sir, there are 7500 workers working in BALCO situated at Korba in Janjgir Parliamentary constituency. The agreement regarding the revision of pay of the employees was to be implemented with effect from 13th April, 1989 but it has not been implemented so far resulting in wide spread resentment among the employees which may result in the closure of the factory. The workers went on strike on the 20th January, 1990, and returned to work on the 26th January when I mediated between the workers and the management. This strike caused a loss of from Rs. 55 to 60 crores and the management claims that this loss amounted to Rs. 9 crores. The agreement regarding revision of pay was signed by the labours representatives and the management of BALCO on 19.10.89 but it has not been implemented so far.

I, therefore, urge the Government to take immediate effective steps in this regard.

[*English*]

(vii) Need to give more quota of rice to Kerala

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha):

Sir, the scarcity of rice in Kerala is of serious concern to the State. As we have achieved success in procurement of sufficient grains including rice, Kerala is to be urgently given more quota of rice. I request that the quota per month may immediately be raised to at least one lakh sixty thousands tonnes per month.

(viii) Need to set up Doordarshan Programme Production centre at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (Visakhapatnam): The State of Andhra Pradesh has only one full-fledged Doordarshan Programme Production Centre located in Hyderabad. Many important cities in the state, such as Visakhapatnam are unable to pick up the programmes telecast from Hyderabad. In the light of the importance of Visakhapatnam, both as an industrial city and projected in the future as one of Asia's top megapolis, it is imperative that a Doordarshan Programme Production Centre is set up there immediately. Such a centre will be able to service the neighbouring areas of Srikakulam and Annakapally as well as some of the border regions of Orissa.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on 9th April, 1999 at 11.00 A.M.

18.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 9, 1990/ Chaitra 19, 1912 (Saka)

*Not recorded.