

[Sh. Ramendra Kumar Ravi Yadav]

istrict in Bihar is a very backward district from all angles. It is a flood-prone area. As such, the farmers and workers are living in a pitiable condition there.

The transportation is the most important and necessary source for industrialisation. Therefore, I request the Central Government that:

- (1) The railway line from Bihariganj to Simri Bakhtiyarpur should be revived.
- (2) The proposal for a railway line from Madhepura to Pratapganj via Sidheshwar should be implemented immediately.
- (3) The railway line from Katihar to Mansi via Madhepura Saharasa should be converted into a broad gauge railway line.
- (4) The Harihar Math Express train which runs from Saharasa to Sonpur should be diverted from Banmankhi junction to Sonpur via Madhepura.

[English]

- (v) **Need to decentralise Eastern Coal fields Ltd. and have a separate Coal company for Orissa**

SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA (Dhenkanal): The fall in production of coal and loss of Rs. 200 crore during the year suffered by the Eastern Coalfields Limited is a serious matter of national concern.

The Talcher and Ib Valley coal fields of Orissa have potential reserve of coal which accounts for one-fifth of the reserves of coal in the country and produce more than half of

the total production of coal of the ECL. Both the coal fields of Orissa have bulk buyers like power plants, steel plants and NALCO. Due to dispersed locations of the coal fields the management by the Divisional Office is far from satisfactory and results in pilferage and lesser despatches. It is therefore of paramount importance to decentralise ECL and have a separate coal company for Orissa for efficient management. By doing so the national loss of Rs. 200 crore can be saved and interest of the State would be served well. I request the Government to avert the loss and constitute a separate coal company for Orissa.

[Translation]

- (vi) **Need for financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh Government for flood control measures to save Una district from recurring floods in the Svan River**

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Flood in Svan river as also in its 75 small tributaries causes havoc every year in district Una, Himachal Pradesh. In 1988 flood caused incalculable loss of life and property in the district and the then Prime Minister paid visit to the State and assured the flood victims that the Central Government would provide maximum financial assistance to the State for flood-control measures in Svan river but it is a matter of regret that till now nothing has been done to save the area from devastation by floods.

Therefore I would request the Government that maximum financial assistance should be provided to the State Government to control the recurring floods in Svan river and to channelise it. Channelisation of the Svan river can help people retrieve large tracts of cultivable land and the district and state can be saved from the loss of human lives and property. By providing irrigation facilities in the retrieved land, the State will not only become self-reliant in foodgrains but will also be able to supply foodgrains to other States.