

The Government in 1979 launched the project at Chiroli as the site was selected considering the cost benefit factor. But later on, the said project was stalled and the site was changed to Pujharipali. The farmers are opposed to setting up of a project at Pujharipali and instead they want the project to come up at Chiroli.

Farmers are facing great difficulties due to lack of irrigation facilities in the whole of the area. I urge upon the Government to provide adequate financial assistance to the Orissa Government to complete the Chiroli Dam Project at the earliest.

(iv) Need for formation of Statutory Development Boards for Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): Marathwada and Vidarbha are backward regions of Maharashtra State. These areas have remained backward and neglected in terms of industrial, educational and overall development. The Maharashtra State Assembly and Legislative Council have unanimously recommended in 1984 formation of Statutory Development Boards for Marathwada and Vidarbha as per provisions of Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India. A similar recommendation has been made for backward region of Konkan. The Boards have not come into existence even after six years of recommendations of the Maharashtra Government to the Union Government. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister have made public pronouncements in Nagpur and Bombay respectively that these Boards will be formed in the near future. May I request the Union Government to expedite Cabinet decision to form the Statutory Boards and fulfil the long standing demands of these regions. A suitable amendment to the Constitution may be undertaken to include provisions of Board for Konkan under Article 371(2) of the Constitution.

[Translation]

(v) Need to retain Scheduled Tribe Status of Manjhi tribe of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while kir community has been declared as tribal community in some districts of Madhya Pradesh, Manjhi, Majhwar and Vijhwar communities have been declared tribal communities in the entire state of Madhya Pradesh in terms of statutory orders 1956 and 76.

Through the notifications of the Madhya Pradesh Government issued during the period from 1982 to 1985 Manjhi and Kir tribes are being deprived of the material benefits available to them by virtue of their belonging to these tribes by declaring them backward classes equivalent and synonyms of those belonging to fisher men sub communities known as Dhiwar, Kewat and Kahar etc.

Indian caste system is based on birth and ones occupation. A community may be known by several names. According to the judgment of High Court, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpore delivered on 14.2.89, the petitioners belonging to fisher men community admittedly belong to Manjhi tribe. Their certificates are valid and the order does not permit for making any distinction about them. Madhya Pradesh Government defines Manjhi as backward class while it defines Majhi as tribe. But in both the English and Hindi versions of the schedule relating to tribes both these words have been used for one and the same serial member and community.

In the article titled 'Majhwar' of the Thesis titled 'The tribals of Madhya Pradesh' published by the Madhya Pradesh administration, the communities of majhwar and majhi have been recognised as one community i.e. fisher boatman tribe. There is no difference between Manjhi and Majhi. Dictionaries of all the languages define Manjhi as a

[Sh Baburao Paranjpe]

fisherman community which includes its various synonyms

If is, therefore urged that the controversy over the question of Majhi, Majhwar and fishermen community as contained in the schedule relating to tribes should end now. Actually Manjhi is the fishermen community and the fishermen community is known as Manjhi, so these names should be deleted from the list of backward classes and the minor difference of a matra involved in these should be done away with. Orders should be passed to extend various benefits to the Manjhi community of Madhya Pradesh with immediate effect and the controversy in this regard should be settled by including this name in the Reservation Bill, under consideration.

[English]

(vi) Need to augment production of pig iron in the country

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly)
Acute shortage of pig iron has been the cause of a major irritant in our foundry and engineering industry for the last few years. Several steps have been suggested to overcome this problem. The total requirement of pig iron estimated at over two million tonnes should be taken care of by the indigenous production of SAIL plants and by imports.

The recently announced decision to allow import of pig iron under Open General Licence will not solve the problem although such steps may ease the situation to some extent.

Proper distribution of pig iron is another matter which requires urgent consideration.

I would urge upon the Central Government to initiate urgent steps to augment

production of pig iron to meet the requirements of our country while resorting to increased import of pig iron as an interim measure.

(vii) Need to utilise surplus water of Krishna Basin in Karnataka

SHRI V KRISHNARAO (Chikballapur)
In Krishna Basin there is surplus water upto 90 T M C. This would feed the drought prone areas of Karnataka i.e. Chitradurga Tumkur, parts of Kolar and Bangalore districts. The Karnataka people of this drought prone area, are urging for the implementation of this project on top priority basis. This is a very long pending project.

Hence, I strongly urge upon the Government to take up this vital project immediately and save the people who are in distress.

[Translation]

(viii) Need to set up a yarn factory in Jahanabad district of Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad)
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, district Jahanabad of Bihar has been declared a sensitive district several years ago. The unemployment problem is very acute there. This district is one of the most backward districts of Bihar. There is not even a single small or major industry in this district. No irrigation facilities have been provided in this district so far, as a result of which this district remains a backward district as far as agriculture is concerned.

There are a large number of handloom cooperatives in district Jahanabad, but due to the non-availability of yarn almost all the weavers have been rendered idle. It is, therefore, requested that a cotton spinning mill should be set up there to spin yarn for these cooperatives.