

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

import of these items will only bring down their prices in the market and thus ruin the growers. It may be remembered that majority of the growers are small and marginal farmers who need to be protected. I would, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to remove this apprehension from the minds of the growers of spices and rubber.

**(iii) Need to check under payment of minimum wages to graphite mines labourers in Bolagir district of Orissa**

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Bolangir district is rich in graphites. There are many graphite mines in the district. Some are open cast and some are underground. The labour law is clear about the minimum wage of Rs. 17.48 and Rs. 21.48 respectively for open cast and underground mines, against which the labourers are paid only Rs. 5/- and Rs. 8/- per day. There are also four graphite beneficiation plants at Belpara village, Bolangir district. These plants are also making underpayment.

I request the Minister of Labour to act immediately to save this problem.

**(iv) Need for construction of a branch line from the Hazira - Jagdishpur pipeline to enable supply of gas to Marathwada**

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): ONGC has been producing crude oil from Bombay High since 1976. Some structures in Bombay offshore like South Basin have been discovered and free gas is available from these fields. It is estimated that oil production is 20 million tonnes per annum and gas around 27 million cubic meters per day. Out of this, 12 million cubic meters gas is transported to Uran through pipelines and supplied to users in Maharashtra. 10 million cubic meters of gas is sent to Hazira and some part is flared. A proposal to make a branch pipeline from main Hazira-Bijaipur-

Jagdishpur pipeline to make natural gas available for industrial users and energy production in backward regions of Marathwada and Vidarbha has been pending with the Ministry of Petroleum. Now under the Western Offshore Integrated Development Programme (WOIDP) proposal for setting up of another gas/oil terminal in 8th plan is under active consideration. The matter is under examination by an expert committee. Marathwada is a backward region of Maharashtra. I, therefore, request the Government through you, Sir, to ensure that the branch line of this gas terminal passes through Marathwada region before onward transmission to South. This will be a boon for industrial users and assist in energy production in this backward region.

[Translation]

**(v) Need to meet the drinking water scarcity of Patna City (Bihar)**

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Sir, Patna City is facing a serious water problem. There has been an abnormal increase in the populations of Patna in last ten years but in proportion to that new water tanks have not been constructed there. The water pipes are also not sufficient to meet the requirement. Due to power shortage people do not get water supply for hours together. The State Government is unable to solve this problem with its own resources. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to take effective steps to solve the problem of drinking water in Patna which is the capital of Bihar and save the lives of the people.

**(vi) Need to declare Bikaner (Rajasthan) a 'B—2' class city**

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Bikaner city is situated at the North western border of Rajasthan and is surrounded by the irrigated areas of Indira Gandhi Canal. Therefore, this city has rich potential of development. Recently the Central Government have de-