

clearing the irrigation projects of these districts. The work, even on the projects which were in progress before the implementation of the Forest Act 1980, has been stopped. The cost is escalating day by day. The Bavanthadi Irrigation Project is an example of it. We can understand that Government may delay the sanction of the projects in the areas where there is shortage of forest land, but where there are plenty of forest lands and where people have protected the forests, Government must sanction the projects without delay and remove the discontentment among the local people.

In Maharashtra, employment guarantee tax is being collected from those farmers also who do not have assured irrigation. The farmers demand is that employment guarantee tax should not be levied on those farmers who do not have assured irrigation. Similarly, land measurement tax also should not be levied on farmers. The farmers are agitating on this issue. There is discontentment among farmers due to this forcible tax collection.

I urge upon the Central Government to clear the pending irrigation projects without delay.

(iv) Need to give clearance to Sidhmukh and Nauhar Canal Projects of Rajasthan.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sidhmukh and Nauhar canal projects are the important canal projects of Rajasthan. These canals will irrigate about 8 lakh acres of land in Bhadra and Nauhar tehsils of Ganganagar and Taranagar and Sadulpur tehsils of Churu district. I would, therefore, request the Government to include these schemes in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

A survey in regard to both of these canals has already been conducted and the papers have been submitted to the Central Water Commission. But the clearance by the Central Water Commission is being delayed. Under the circumstances, it is requested that the clearance in respect of Sidhmukh and Nauhar Canals may be issued without any further delay so that the farmers could benefit from the above canals and are able to remove their backwardness and poverty

and also increase country's production. If the work on these canals is started, it will benefit 150 villages of Sriganganagar district which are in the grip of famine on the one hand and provide employment to the people of adjoining areas of Churu district on the other. The Central Government also want that the funds spent on famine relief work should create permanent means of livelihood for the people. This could be possible only through canals.

I am sure, the Central Government would issue orders for taking up construction of these canals without further delay so as to provide relief from the famine. I have been persistently writing to the Government in this regard, for the last 6 years and have also raised the matter in the House a number of times.

(v) Need to take measures to supply Narmada water to Barmer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan for irrigation.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal in their award have allotted 0.50 million acre feet Narmada water for irrigation in Barmer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan.

The Government of Rajasthan propose to bring 99035 hectares of cultivable land under irrigation in these districts, but the project report has not been submitted so far. The Central Government should impress upon the State Government to prepare the project report immediately and submit the same for approval.

[SHRI SHANU DEDHI in the Chair]

12.12. Hrs.

According to the existing construction programme, the construction of the main canal in Gujarat upto Rajasthan border is expected to be completed by the year 1995-96. The Rajasthan Government has stressed the need for its completion by 1991.

Being the representative of that area, I request that the construction of this canal upto the Rajasthan border should be completed by 1991 to enable the border districts of Barmer and Jalore, which are