

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

[Shri Kammodilal Jatav]

crying even for drinking water to get irrigation water from Narmada so that the land which has been lying dry and parched for centuries could be irrigated.

Keeping in view the giant size of the above project and also in view of the backwardness of these desert districts in the border area, the Central Government should make allocation to the State Government in the Seventh Five Year Plan and on its part the State Government should also make sufficient provision so that the work could be taken up on war footing and Narmada water could be supplied to Barmer and Jalore districts for irrigation by 1991 to turn these desert districts into greenery.

[English]

- (vi) Need to set up a revolving fund to safeguard the interests of tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh and direct Tobacco Board to start purchase of tobacco at minimum support prices.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijaywada): Tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh are facing unprecedented crisis. Only 8.5 million kgs. of tobacco has been purchased as on date as against 18 million kgs. during the same period last year. The average price realised is much less than what was received last year. The tobacco brought on to the auction platform is not sold for many days causing lot of inconvenience financial loss to the growers. The Ministry of Commerce should take immediate steps to confirm the export orders for USSR and other countries for the current year as well as for next year, and distribute the order to a large number of traders which will result in better prices to growers. If traders do not come forward, the Tobacco Board should start purchase operations at the minimum support prices and pass on the profit received to the growers because there is no increase in minimum support price for the last two years though the cost of cultivation has increased to a considerable extent. The Government of India should set up a revolving fund of Rs. 100 crores for purchase of tobacco just on the lines of revolving fund for purchase of jute by Jute Corporation of India. The

Government should allocate more funds for extension and improved cultivation practices, installation of J.T.S. Jackets, etc. to the growers.

- (vii) Need to bring the pay scales of public sector employees at par with pay scales of Central Government employees.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tirpura West): Sir, public sector undertakings on Central pay pattern are about 70 in number with more than five lakh employees. According to the Fourth Pay Commission, their number and pay scales cannot be considered insignificant. The employees of these public sector units are not interested to get delinked from Central Government wage structures. In fact, they are trying to cooperate with the management for increasing efficiency in the management and to remove all impediments in productivity, potentiality, diversification and expansion so that self-reliance can be achieved soon. At the same time they are opposed to privatisation of industries reserved for public sector. Contrary to the general impression, the employees in these seventy public sector undertakings are not in the 'high wage island' and, therefore, they want continued parity with Central Government wage pattern. They have appealed to all concerned but have failed to receive any response so far. I, therefore, urge upon the Government and the Minister concerned to make a statement in the House clarifying the Government's position in the matter and clear the suspense created for these five lakh public sector employees.

[Translation]

- (viii) Need to extend Gwalior Chhapra Mail up to Agra and also to provide stoppage at Morena Station.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Chhapra Gwalior Mail has a 17 hour halt at Gwalior. Agra is a business centre and the traders undertake journey daily from Gwalior to Agra and back for purchase of goods. Gwalior too has been the capital of the State and is considered an industrial