

Power Stations and on the other hand it will provide a short cut to Allahabad. In the absence of this road, a considerable amount is spent because of the remoteness of the Central and State Projects. Besides, this road will link those villages which are predominantly tribal and economically and socially backward.

I, therefore, would like to draw the attention of the Union Minister of Shipping and Transport to this important road and request that necessary funds may be sanctioned for it during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

- (vi) Erecting of a new T.V. tower and providing ENG Equipments for Panaji Relay Station.

[*English*]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : In the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, Panaji has a TV transmitter of 10 k.w. However, due to insufficient height of the present TV tower, only 1 k.w. capacity of the transmitter is being utilised. The work of erecting a new tower has recently begun.

It is prayed that the work of erection of the new tower, be expedited with specific and strict instructions to the contractor concerned.

Secondly, it is a well-known fact that Goa has its own art and culture. Even Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had laid stress on preserving the same. In this regard, I would like to request the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to see to it that ENG equipments with edit and play-back facilities are provided to the Panaji Relay Station to enable them to produce programmes, to start with, of small duration, using local talent.

Thirdly, Daman and Diu, the two districts of the Union Territory, which lie far away from Goa District, on the West Coast of Gujarat, are not covered by any of the transmitters, recently installed in the country.

It is requested that two TV relay stations of appropriate capacity be erected in these two districts at the earliest.

13.00 hrs.

- (vii) Need for a uniform power tariff for the entire country.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakha-patnam) : The Government have not so far implemented the recommendations of the Rajadhyaksha Committee for a uniform power tariff for the entire country for the energy being supplied from the Central stations irrespective of whether they are conventional, coal-based thermal stations or hydro-stations or nuclear stations. The National Thermal Power Corporation contrary to the recommendations of the Rajadhyaksha Committee, initiated proposals for entering into different agreements with different tariffs for different regions which will be discriminatory in nature because of which Andhra Pradesh stands to suffer. The central stations and the associated grid lines are being set up with the resources that belong to the entire country and not contributed by any particular region or State. No discrimination should, therefore, be attempted in regard to the sale of power from these stations to a region or regions. The intention of a single tariff is to see that no discrimination is involved between one State and another irrespective of where the power station is situated in the region. The concept of a uniform tariff for the entire country will also ensure that the thermal stations in particular are not located haphazardly all over the country, but are confined to locations where it would be most economical to set up power stations and transfer predetermined blocks of power to the individual States. The above proposals need to be implemented immediately.

[*Translation*]

- (viii) Mismanagement in Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills under NTC in Gaya, Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Gaya

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

Cotton and Jute Mills in the Gaya district of Bihar is being run by N.T.C. This Cotton and Jute Mill is almost on the brink of closure. The Mill has been running at loss for years together. 400 workers of this Mill have constantly been urging the management of the Mill to develop it and increase the production. They have constantly been urging the management to make available the raw material and replace the obsolete machinery. The workers who insist upon the aforesaid improvements are retrenched. The condition of the Mill is so bad that the workers have not been paid their salary for as many as four months, with the result that the children of the workers are suffering from malnutrition as well as lack of education.

Government should take appropriate action and have the Mill run properly.

[*English*]

(ix) Directions to Coffee Board to purchase Coffee from producers of Idukki and to provide godown facilities at Idukki

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Sir, I raise the following matter of public importance to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce. In my constituency, Idukki, there are a large number of coffee growers who own small holdings. In fact, a major chunk of coffee produced in Kerala is from Idukki District. Coffee produced by growers is collected by the Coffee Board through their agents. The collection season is from January to March. This year the collecting agents are not able to purchase the coffee from growers on account of the fact that the coffee already purchased by these agents have not been lifted by the Coffee Board. Sufficient transportation arrangements are also not provided by Coffee Board for lifting coffee from pooled depots to main storage depots. This is a period of repayment of loans to the cooperatives and other banks and the farmers are in a predicament. They are not able to sell their yield. I want the hon. Minister to pay his immediate attention to this matter I request him to direct the Coffee Board to take urgent steps to lift coffee

immediately from the pooled depots, purchase the coffee produced by the growers and take necessary steps for providing additional godown facilities wherever necessary in the district of Idukki.

Also as coffee cultivation is not profitable in the present context of high costs of cultivation, I request that the minimum release price of coffee may be enhanced and the excise duty on coffee may be lifted.

13.04 hrs.

REPORT OF NATIONAL
TRANSPORT POLICY
COMMITTEE—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, hon. Minister, Shri Z.R. Ansari may continue his speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a partly-heard
speech.

The other day while taking part in the debate on the Report of the National Transport Policy Committee, I just had time to meet a few questions which have been raised by hon. Member regarding the port sector. With regard to port sector there is only one point which I just want to clarify regarding minor ports. The management of minor and intermediate ports is the responsibility of the State Governments. The upkeep and improvement of the minor ports and their development is under the control of the State Governments. But the Working Group on Ports set up by the Planning Commission for the Seventh Five Year Plan has recommended a scheme to provide Central assistance to the States for the development of minor and intermediate ports. Now, those recommendations are incorporated in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The implementation of the recommendation, namely the quantum