

[Shri Chintamani Jena]

all over the country. Five such R.M.S. Offices have been closed down from 1-3-86 in Orissa Postal Circle alone. Similar is the case with Branch Post Offices. Several hundreds of such B.P.Os., which are generally situated in rural and hilly areas, have been served with notices of depositing Non-returnable Contributions (N.R.C.s) ranging from 10 to 50 thousand within 10 days, failing which these offices will be closed down permanently, even though many of such B.P.Os have been functioning for more than 3 decades, very smoothly. Initially no such conditions were imposed for depositing such N.R.Cs. After closing down the R.M.S. Offices it is experienced that the Daks received within 3 days would take seven to eight days to be delivered. Besides, this decision of the postal department is a complete departure from the Government's announced policy of rural upliftment.

In such circumstances, I would request the Hon'ble Minister for Communication to reconsider the issue and the R.M.S. Offices which are already closed down and the B.P.P.s which are to be closed down soon, may be allowed to function, as in the past, since all such R.M.S. Offices and B.P.Os are fulfilling all the existing norms.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Need to provide financial assistance to the Rajasthan Government for undertaking schemes for supply of drinking water to the people of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner districts

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the desert area of Rajasthan is facing a serious drinking water-crisis. Particularly, Thar region of the desert area and Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Nagpur had scanty rains and as a result the water table has fallen considerably and the water is brackish; at places no water is available. The tubewells have been successful in a very small area which are providing water for rural and urban water supply schemes.

The Central Government have decided that during the Seventh Five Year Plan

steps would be taken to supply drinking water to all the cities and villages of the country, but until schemes for supply of drinking water from Indira Gandhi Canal are formulated and unless drinking water is supplied to Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner Districts through lift Canal and Flow-Canals, the problem cannot be solved permanently.

Such a huge task cannot be accomplished without the special help of the Central Government. I would, therefore, request the Central Government that it should direct the Rajasthan Government to formulate drinking water supply schemes urgently by getting water from main Canal of Indira Gandhi Canal, Pokharan Lift Canal, Barmer Lift Canal, Falaudi-Kolaya Lift Canal and flow canal and Sagarmal Godha and Birbal Branch Canals so that drinking water could be supplied to Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Pokharan, Falaudi, Balotara, Siwana cities and all the villages of the region and the problem could be solved permanently. The Central Government should provide 100 per cent assistance for these schemes.

- (vi) Need to allot housing sites to Harijans particularly in rural areas and provide adequate funds to them for self-employment schemes under Special Component Plan

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the schemes formulated under the special component plan prepared for Harijans in district Ganganagar are not being implemented properly this year by the Rural Development Authority.

Under the special component plan, the unemployed Harijan Graduates and Post Graduates and other educated unemployed youths are not being provided loans for self-employment. Neither there is any proper arrangement for providing them grant-in-aid. As a result, there is frustration among the educated unemployed Harijan youth. This feeling of frustration is making other Harijan youths indifferent towards education. This atmosphere of indifference is an obstacle for all the rural Harijan youths in their academic pursuit. The residential plots have not been allotted to Harijans in the rural areas and as a