

[Shri K. Mohandass]

reviewing these guidelines. Acquisition of land its development is essential aspect of housing construction and it is very essential to have an agency which would be able to meet the credit requirement on this score. The HUDCO and the nationalised banks should be asked to provide adequate financial assistance to the Housing Boards for acquisition and development of land. I request the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

[Translation]

(v) Need to raise credit limit fixed by HUDCO

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Sir, the Government of Kerala has undertaken ambitious programme of constructing one lakh houses for the homeless, particularly those who belong to the weaker sections. It is estimated that there are ten lakh people who are living in small, dilapidated huts. This programme will go a long way in tackling the problem of housing being faced by the weaker sections.

Under the present scheme, the cost of a house is Rs. 6,000/- of which Rs. 1500/- are given by the Centre as grant and the rest as loan. The first instalment for the construction of 76,000 houses has been given. But money is not available for the remaining 24,000 houses. Kerala needs an amount of Rs. 45 crores to meet the requirement. HUDCO is giving loan but that is not enough. The nationalised banks at present do not advance any loan to the Housing Board for this purpose. This has greatly hampered the construction activity. It is therefore, necessary to raise the credit limit fixed by HUDCO and permit the banks to advance loans.

Therefore, I request the Government to take appropriate steps in this regard.

*The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

(vi) Need for linking Southern Rivers with Northern Rivers and Western Rivers with Eastern Rivers

*DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Sir, the problem of unemployment is very acute in the rural areas throughout the country. The poor people in the village areas throughout the country do not have any work to do. Their children are not getting food. Social and economic development in these areas is in jeopardy. The human resources are not being utilised in our country. Industrial centres have increased, but unfortunately there is not adequate power supply. Transportation system is also not efficient. Especially the remote villages cannot transport their goods to the towns and cities. Our country has abundant natural resources but unfortunately the resources are not being utilised fully. Almost every year there would be severe drought or floods in some part or the other. In addition to these problems, there is the danger of population explosion. The world will have to face the problem of food in the near future if the steep increase in population is not checked immediately.

There is only one major solution to all the serious problems mentioned above. The southern rivers have to be linked with the northern rivers. The western rivers have to be linked with the eastern rivers. Therefore, I request the Central Government to come out with a major plan for linking these rivers of our country.

[English]

(vii) Need to explore feasibility of establishing a Nuclear power project in Orissa to help overcome power shortage in the eastern region of the State

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Acute shortage of power in Orissa has not only shaken the economy of the State including Industry but also affected every walk of life. The theoretical generation capability in the State is 574 MWs where

*The Speech was originally delivered in Kannada.