

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

It is, therefore, felt necessary in the natural interest that the financial year should commence from 1st September instead of 1st April so that strong monsoon period can be devoted to passing of Budget, transaction of relevant official work etc. thus making about 10 months' time available for field work.

(ii) Need to increase the procurement of iron ore from non-captive mines

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Iron ore produced in the four mining areas i.e. Banspani-Banhil in the district of Keonjhar, Koira in the district of Sundargarh, Gorumahisani-Badampahar in the district of Mayurbhanj and Gandhamardan-Doitari-Tomka in the districts of Cuttack and Keonjhar in Orissa are despatched for consumption by the steel mills at Rourkela, Durgapur, Burnpur and Bokaro. The steel plants used to procure 1.72 lakh tonnes of iron ore from the non-captive mines every month. Their procurement has declined to below one lakh tonnes every month now. This situation has been further aggravated with progressive reduction in the export procurement by the MMTC from these areas, from a total quantity of about two million tonnes procured by MMTC from different non-captive mines in the State for the purpose of export, procurement has come down to a large extent. I urge upon the Central Government to instruct the steel plants to increase the procurement to 1.72 lakh tonnes every month from the non-captive mines and to instruct MMTC to arrange iron ore export of at least three million tonnes every year from Orissa so that all the iron ore mines are opened to work to save large number of tribal workers from retrenchment and also to abolish the contract system in the procurement of ores which is exploiting the tribal labour to the maximum by paying low wages.

(iii) Fixation of price of gas supplied for power generation at Uran, Maharashtra on coal equivalent basis

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane) : Maharashtra State Government has taken up the issue of pricing of gas with the Government of India as ONGC is billing the supply of gas on the basis of LSHS replacement which is not acceptable to State Government.

As per the prices prevailing in 1985 of coal and LSHS, equivalent cost of gas on coal replacement basis works out to nearly Rs. 70 per million kilo calories. The same on the basis of LSHS replacement works out to nearly Rs. 245/- per million kilo calories i.e. nearly 3.5 times of coal replacement cost.

The matter is pending with the Central Government and therefore, it is requested that instruction may be issued to price the gas supplied for power generation at Uran on coal equivalent basis.

(iv) Financial and technical assistance to Kerala for development of Mappila Bay, Cannanore, as a fullfledged port

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : The development of Mappila Bay at Cannanore has assumed paramount importance in view of the fact that hundreds of fishing boats and thousands of country crafts anchor at this harbour. It is all the more significant as the district of Cannanore has the maximum number of fishing villages in Kerala.

Being a naturally protected bay even during rough weather the Mappila Bay offers a safe fishing area for the fisherfolk in and around Cannanore district. Efforts have been made to develop this port time and again. However to make it a fullfledged major fishing port more expertise and money is essential. Without substantial help from the Central Government the work on the port will continue to remain half done.

Considering the high potentialities of the Bay in promoting maritime trade,