

reserves should be awarded top priority. But practically, it is seen that due attention has not been given for the exploitation of coal reserves in Orissa. The main reasons of inadequate attention paid for development of coal fields in Orissa is that the Talcher coal fields and Ib valley coal fields are functioning under two different coal companies. I demand that for systematic and expeditious exploitation of the coal reserves of Orissa and to ensure coordination and efficiency, the two coal producing areas in the State should be brought under the administrative control of a separate subsidiary company of Coal India Ltd., with headquarters in Orissa.

[English]

- (ii) Need to issue a commemorative stamp in the memory of Vir Surendra Lai, a freedom fighter.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Vir Surendra Sai was one of the foremost freedom fighters of our country. He led a revolt against the British rule as early as 1827 in Sambalpur and Chhatisgarh region which continued quite for long, keeping the foreign administration at bay. For his relentless fight against the Britishers, Surendra Sai was imprisoned for 37 years and he breathed his last in Asurgarh Fort Jail in 1884, far away from Sambalpur, his native place. Surendra Sai who lived for 75 years from 1809 to 1884 spent half of his life in British jail for his uncompromising fight against the British rule. His patriotism and heroism were thus unparalleled.

But it is a matter of regret that this great national hero is yet to occupy the place he deserves in our history. The Vir Surendra Sai Death Cen.enary Committee formed by the State Government has initiated some measures to highlight his contributions and greatness. But its proposal as well as request to the communications Ministry, Government of India to bring out a commemorative stamp in honour of this great national hero has so far not been translated into action.

This being rather overdue, the Communications Ministry should not further delay in bringing out the Vir Surendra Sai Commemorative stamp.

- (iii) Need for taking steps for preventing the reported killing of cows in thousands in West Germany.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali) : It is reported in the press that the West German Government has decided to kill 2,60,000 of its cows to control the overproduction of milk. This has been received in India as inhuman as the children of Africa and Asia are dying for want of milk, and there is a uniform uproar in the country. The Tamilnadu Government, in order to upgrade its milk production, to assuage the religious feelings of its population, and to help the poor farmers, has written to the Centre to permit it to purchase one lakh. West German cows. The Centre is said to have accepted it in principle and has been negotiating with the EEC (East European Community). In the interests of our economy also, it is better for the Centre to purchase the other cows for the same purpose as that of Tamilnadu. It is also advisable for the Centre to convince the other States also in the direction.

This matter is urgent as the cows are to be killed by the end of this month. Hence it is urgent for the Centre to prevail upon the Federal Republic of Germany not to kill the cows by the end of this month and start negotiations with EEC for purchase of all the cows either by the Centre or the States.

- (iv) Inadequate supply of water for irrigation in Thanjavur District and need to settle Cauvery water Dispute

SHRI S. SINGARAVADIVEL (Thanjavur) : The agricultural operations in Thanjavur District, the granary of Tamil Nadu, are very much affected and the economy of the District is shattered on account of the inadequate supply of water for irrigation, caused by the impending dispute over the sharing of Cauvery water during the last ten years. This year also the water position is critical and there is no possibility of releasing any water for irrigation. Local rains also cannot save the situation. Under these circumstances, the farmers and agricultural labourers are very much worried about their future in Thanjavur District and their interest can be protected only by a quick and fair solution to the issue. Hence the Minister of Irrigation