

from Sawai Madhpor to Tonk during the last few years. Survey report has also been submitted to the Ministry but this matter is being postponed in the name of constraints of resources. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate and positive steps in this regard.

[English]

- (iv) **Demand to provision of sophisticated rigs etc. for drilling deep tubewells in Kalahandi and Bolangir districts of Orissa to meet drinking water scarcity in the region.**

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Acute shortage of drinking water in various parts of the country has become a matter of grave concern. The problem is more serious in hilly areas where due to communication problem digging of tubewells with sophisticated rigs is not possible. In drought prone areas like Kalahandi and Bolangir in the State of Orissa, due to large scale devastation of forest, water sources have gone low.

The problem of cattle, birds and other animals has become all the more serious. A war footing strategy should be devised and implemented by adequate financial assistance and supply of sophisticated rigs, vehicles and other equipment for drilling deep tubewells. All preventive and precautionary measures should be taken to ensure that unhygienic condition and unclean water will not lead to any epidemic. A national level micro-plan should be adopted to ensure that there will not be any shortage of drinking water at least by 2000 A.D.

[Translation]

- (v) **Demand for commissioning the proposed radio station at Barmer in Rajasthan**

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmet): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sanction was

accorded for the setting up of a radio station in the border district of Barmet in Rajasthan about five years back and till today only a building for the radio station has been constructed and no machinery has been installed therein. The pace of construction of the studio is also very slow.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Information and broadcasting to set up a radio station at the district headquarters in the border district of Barmer in Rajasthan within three months so that people living in this far-flung area of Barmer-district might be benefited.

[English]

- (vi) **Demand for disclosing facts to Parliament before signing treaty on export of toxic wastes from industrialised countries to Third World countries.**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is understood that an International Convention to control the transport and disposal of hazardous waste was agreed by representatives of more than 100 countries sometimes in March, 1989. The Convention supposedly aims to prevent illegal export of toxic wastes from industrialised countries to developing nations. It is believed to provide that countries exporting wastes should have the written assent of importing countries for each specific cargo and for management of waste in 'environmentally sound' manner which of course has not been defined.

The Convention, however, has not made the countries which produce wastes liable for its ultimate disposal and does not prevent importation of wastes to countries which do not have the same level of facilities and technology as exporting nations nor does it insist on sophisticated verification procedure including inspection of disposal sites. It is reported that no specific measures have been included in the Treaty to discourage the international transport of wastes. Ac-

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

ording to Green peace, the environmental action group, the demands of developing nations for protection from international waste trade have largely been ignored and the Treaty has legalised the export of waste to the Third countries.

17.38 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

It is not known whether India has signed the Convention regarding the transport and disposal of hazardous wastes. Our national interest will be seriously jeopardised if India becomes a party to the Convention without disclosing the facts fully to the Parliament and people as a whole. In the circumstances, I demand that the full facts should be disclosed by the Government at the earliest opportunity and it should not sign any treaty which compromises our national interest.

- (vii) **Demand for effective measures to ensure un-interrupted supply of raw materials to electric Arc furnace Industry and rationalising customs and excise duty on ferrous scrap.**

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani): The Electric Arc Furnace Industry in the country which supplies 70 per cent of bars and rods requirement in the priority sector of house construction as also special alloy steel for engineering, automobile and transport industries besides railways and other important segments of national economy, has been passing through a critical phase because of inadequate availability of basic raw material resulting in heavy financial losses. Excise duty on its products which was exempted till April, 1979 has been increased from Rs. 383/- per tonne to Rs. 525/- per tonne bringing it at par with the integrated steel plants.

To salvage the industry from the pres-

ent difficult situation, I would urge the Government that (i) effective measures should be taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of raw material; (ii) the question of waiving the customs duty on imports of ferrous scrap or to bring it to the level prior to the escalation in international prices of scrap and; (iii) the question of rationalisation of excise duty by reducing it to Rs. 105/- per tonne at April 1977 level may kindly be considered sympathetically.

[*Translation*]

- (vii) **Demand for urgent steps to provide drinking and irrigation water in Palamau and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar**

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the spring season coming to an end, the scorching heat of summer is gaining intensity and with the increase in heat the drinking water crisis in the hill areas of Bihar is deepening further. Due to scanty rainfall this year, rabi as well kharif crops have almost been destroyed and a famine like situation has developed. Apart from that, drinking water crisis, especially in Latehar, Chandwa, Balumath, Manatu. Panki blocks in Palamau district in Bihar has been depending further. Chatra, Pratappur, Hanterganj blocks in Hazaribagh district and Dumaria, Imamganj, Amas, Barachatti, Mohanpur and Fatehpur blocks in Gaya district are also hit by this crisis. Moisture of land has already dried up and water level is fast going down. There has been drinking water crisis and all sources of irrigation, whatever were there, have also failed.

In view of above difficulties, I would like to make an appeal to the Government to provide drinking water and irrigation facilities to the people on a what footing. Besides, keeping in view that it is mostly a stony area, I would like to request the Government to send diamond boring rigs in large number to that area.