

[English]

(iii) Financial Assistance to Goa for purchase of Ferry Boats

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Since the collapse of Mandovi Bridge on the river Mandovi in Goa on 5th July, 1986, the Department of River Navigation in Goa has been operating additional ferry services across the River to ferry passengers and vehicles. On an average, the River Navigation Department is operating round the clock 10 ferry boats and 3 motor launches per day to transport about 1 lakh passengers and 20,000 vehicles across river Mandovi. To meet this huge demand of traffic at least 25 ferry boats were assured by the Transport Ministry to the Goa Government when an official team visited Goa immediately after the collapse of the Bridge. The Ministry had also assured a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs for the purchase of 2 motor launches, 4 ferry boats and 4 R.P.L. vessels provided by the Transport Ministry to the Goa Government to meet the situation are found to be inadequate. The R.P.K. vessels are lying practically unused as they have been found not to be in good working condition. The River Navigation Department had also requested the Transport Ministry to utilise/reinvest monthly revenue of Rs. 3 lakhs obtained by the Department from the sale of tickets on ferry services.

In the circumstances, I request that the transport Ministry should provide necessary funds to the Goa Government for the purchase of new ferry boats and also allow them to utilise or re-invest the monthly amount of Rs. 3 lakhs obtained from the sale of tickets.

(iv) Need to take steps for modernisation of Visvasvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : Sir, the Visvasvaraya Iron and Steel Limited was started by the great statesman Bharat Rataa, Sir, M. Visvasvaraya in the year 1922 and was the first public sector steel plant in the country.

It has grown up to the level of highest alloy and special steel plant in the country and enjoys reputation for its quality in the market.

The factory is jointly owned by the Government of India through SAIL and State Government in the ratio of 40:60 respectively. Due to paucity of funds, steps for its modernisation have not been taken so far.

The State Government is not in a position to invest more funds for modernisation of the plant.

Ten thousand people are working in this plant. I, therefore, request the Government of India to take steps for its modernisation and take over.

(v) Conversion of highway between Hyderabad and Ramagundam into a National highway.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY (Peddapalli) : Sir, Ramagundam is an important industrial area with large potential for growth. It has large coal reserves. Offices of N.T.P.C., Fertilizer Corporation of India and cement factories are located here. Ramagundam being such an important industrial centre, the road between Hyderabad and Ramagundam which is a State highway is inadequate to cater to the needs of such an important industrial centre.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Surface Transport that the State highway may be taken up by the Centre as a National Highway.

(vi) Need to provide drinking water and other basic amenities in Rohini Residential Scheme, Delhi.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK (Durgapur) : Sir, in 1979, Delhi Development Authority invited applications for the plots developed by it in the Rohini Residential Scheme, Delhi. As per information given by the Minister of Urban Development, the number of plots were more than the number of applications received by the DDA for this scheme. 1982 onwards, DDA started allotting plots to the applicants. The allottees were given 3 years' time to construct the houses on the plots. A large number of houses have come up in sectors 3, 7 and 8 but the DDA has failed to provide the basic amenities of water, road, electricity and sanitation. Those who have not built

[Shri Purna Chandra Malik]

their houses within 3 years, have been penalised for not constructing the houses. Those who have constructed their houses, are not being provided with water connections on the ground that water is not available. People have spent lakhs of rupees on the construction of these houses and it is impossible to live there without the basic amenities.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Urban Development to ask DDA to provide water connections in all the above sectors without any further loss of time. If the DDA is not in a position to provide water, the concerned authorities should be asked not to levy any penalties or charge the house tax etc., till water is made available to them.

(vii) Needs to set-up a tribunal to resolve the boundary dispute between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : I have been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Government of India from the floor of Parliament to the festering boundary dispute between UP and Bihar involving in particular Balia and Bhojpur districts of the respective States.

There is an Act of Parliament on the boundary settlement between the two States. It was in pursuance of this Act that an independent Body called Trivedi Commission was appointed and it submitted its report deliaeting the broad parameters and guidelines for the final settlement of the claims and counter-claims of the States concerned.

In the light of the Trivedi award, all disputes should have ceased but despite a series of meetinns between the Chief Ministers and also officials of the two States, no solutions have been found.

In the continuing uncertainty, the farmers of Bhojpur in Bihar along the course of the river Ganges which acts as the natural boundary between U.P. and Bihar in this area are the worst sufferers. They cultivate their land which legitimately belongs to them but during the har-vasting season their crops are forcibly harvested by UP farmers. Almost every year this leads to tension and killings.

Only last week a farmer from Nainjore village in Bhojpur was killed in indiscriminate firing. Following this incident, serious tension is building up and is bound to result into more violence.

I urge upon the Central Government to appoint a Tribunal with independent authority to give its final award on the dispute and as a short-term measure, ensure that the Bihar farmers harvest their ripe crops without further harassment and violence.

[Translation]

(vii) Demand for taking over of Orient Power Cable Limited Kota

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAK-TAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I want to draw the attention of the Ministry of Labour towards the miserable condition of workers working in the Orient Power Cable Limited, Kota (Rajasthan).

Sprawling over an area of 375 acres, the Orient Power Cable Limited was set up in 1962 with the Japanese Collaboration. This was one of the seven leading cable manufacturing companies of India at that time. But it was declared sick and closed down in 1986 by its management. Workers of this company are on the brink of starvation. They have not been paid any remuneration for the last two years.

Even the colony of workers named 'Cable Nagar' is deserted. Water and electric supply to the colony have been cut.

In gross violation of all industrial and labour laws, the company and its management have usurped the dues of the workers. The company is not only trying to misappropriate the money it owes to the Nationalised Banks, but has also usurped 375 acres of fertile land of Kota, a fertile district of Rajasthan. The Government is requested to interfere in the matter and take over this factory so as to revive it and to save its workers and their families from starvation.