

[English]

- (v) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra for implementation of special plan for tribal areas.**

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): A special plan amounting Rs. 195 crores has been prepared by Government of Maharashtra under the direction of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the Tribal Garchiroli district, some parts of Chandrapur and Nanded districts. This plan aims at better communications, electricity supply and welfare activities aimed at fighting the poverty of the area.

Government of India, Ministry of Planning, should assist this massive programme which has been taken by the State Government to fight poverty and disruptive and terrorist activities of the forces who try to take law in their own hands.

- (vi) **Need to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on a National Level.**

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sahitya Samrat Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was illustrious and accomplished son of India. He was the author of 'Bande Matram' which provided us the inspiration and weapon to fight against the British in our freedom struggle. With the sacred and mystic word 'Bande Matram' on their lips, thousands of youths, students and women jumped into the freedom movement and embraced death smilingly. Even today, 'Bande Matram' is a basic 'Mantra' or sacred hymn of our national life. Bankim Chandra was born in the year 1839. His birth centenary fell in the year 1939 when our country was under foreign rule. But in June this year

150 years of his birth will be completed. Now our country is independent. Therefore, as a citizen of this free country, I want to request the Government of India to celebrate the 150 years of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay with full national honour and dignity all over the country.

For this purpose, the Government may contemplate issuing of special postal stamps, setting up of some memento collection centres, exhibition of documents of our freedom movement for the public, etc. Some national monument may be erected to perpetuate his memory. Serious thought may kindly be given to this.

- (vii) **Need to direct the management of Singareni Collieries to settle the demands of workers.**

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY (Peddapalli): The amount of contribution made by the Singareni Collieries Company Limited to the growth of Indian mines is indeed a matter of great pride for the State of Andhra Pradesh. The results achieved by this Company have paved new vistas into the coal map of India.

However, the plight of the workers working in this company is far from satisfactory. Unfortunately, the management has not taken any positive steps to solve the problems of the workers like payment of their wages linked to the productivity, the housing, schooling and medical facilities to the labourers of the company. In the absence of settling these issues, labourers are often going on strikes. Their long pending demands should be settled with immediate effect by the Management, so that the labourers can work in an atmosphere of peace and satisfaction; otherwise the mounting dissatisfaction and discontentment among the working class may result in unpleasantness causing huge loss to the Nation.