

[Sh. K.N. Pradhan]

damaged and there is a possibility other crops being damaged if the rains do not arrive in time. The next crop is also in danger.

Besides, there will be acute shortage of drinking water, as the ground water level has receded further. Sehore and Bhopal districts in Madhya Pradesh are the worst affected by drought. The drinking water problem in Bhopal is going to worsen further. During the last five years, the big lake was never upto to the brim. Due to scarcity of water, the lake water may get polluted.

Water has not so far been released from the Kolar Project. Today, the people of Bhopal have started realising that the problem of drinking water in Bhopal can be permanently solved by bringing water from Narmada and the Government should take immediate steps in this regard.

Arrangements should be made from now onwards for the relief work and for providing water to the districts like Devas, Bhopal and Sehore. The Central Government should also provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government in these circumstances.

- (v) **Need for sanctioning construction of the Navatha and the Khariaguti dams to ensure supply of water to Hatnoor weir on the River Tapi**

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol): Hatnoor weir on River Tapi in Maharashtra is now complete. This weir is to get water from the Navatha and Khariaguti Dams. But the construction of these projects has not started yet. These projects are major irrigation projects. The farmers of Khandva District of Madhya Pradesh and those from Amravati, Jalgaon Districts of Maharashtra will be mainly benefited with the completion of these projects.

The soil of this area is very fertile. It can

produce large amount of food and other agriculture products if supported by irrigation facilities.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister for Water Resources to look into the matter and sanction the projects.

- (vi) **Need to ensure early payment of dues to the sugarcane growers**

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Guraru in Gaya District is a place which is predominantly a sugarcane growing area. On the basis of the production of sugarcane on a large scale, Government established a sugar factory there. But, during the past three years, this sugar factory has remained closed. The farmers from whom the Government had bought sugarcane had not been given the reasonable price for their produce. The sugarcane growers are much disheartened which has resulted in the fall of production of sugarcane.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that their dues are paid to them on time.

[Translation]

- (vii) **Need for measures to improve the lot of Beedi workers**

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Beedi workers of Madhya Pradesh in general and Satna district in particular are facing unprecedented difficulties. Thousands of such workers in Nagud Maiter Ramnagar, Amarpatan, Satna, Regaon, Chitrakoot, Barrwara, Vijayaraghgarh and Rampur Bagena which come under the constituency of Satna are without any means of livelihood. They are facing a situation of near starvation. The owners of the Beedi industries have discontinued the practice of granting 'Patta' for making Beedis to the Beedi workers after nationalisation of Tendu leaves trade. Despite the announcement of the minimum wages, a beedi worker on an average gets not more than Rs. 10 to 11 per day as wages. Previously, the beedi