

[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

worker used to get 850 grams of leaves for rolling beedis which has been reduced to 600 to 7000 grams per worker per day. In most of the places this is the quota being granted. With the nationalisation of Tendu leaves trade the workers have definitely been benefited but the owners of the beedi industries have taken this step out of a feeling of revenge against the Government. Similar conditions prevail in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country.

The Central Government should give special attention towards this problem. The Central Government should bring forward a legislation in this very session to ensure that a worker gets at least one kg. leaves per day for manufacturing beedis and is paid at least Rs. 20 per day as wages. The Government should also taken steps to provide employment to all the beedi workers of Satna and other areas of the country.

(viii) **Need for expediting the extension of railway line from Jammu to Udhampur**

[English]

BEGUM AKBAR JAHAN ABDULLAH (Anantnag): Despite assurance from the Central Government the work on the railway trace between Jammu and Udhampur is going on at a snail's pace.

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have facilitated acquisition of land, still the progress on this project is slow. I would plead with the Railway Ministry that the allocation for the current year must be doubled and the Ministry should ensure that the money is spent within the stipulated time.

Construction of rail track is necessary from another angle also. The Jammu Srinagar road gets closed during winter months bringing many difficulties to the people in Kashmir Valley. The extension of Railway line upto Udhampur will definitely ease the situation.

(ix) **Need for extending the benefits of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana to the unemployed youth of the four major metropolitan cities**

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, I want to congratulate our Government for Nehru Rozgar Yojana for the urban youth. In this programme, the youth from four big metropolitan cities, namely Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi will be deprived of the benefits from Nehru Rozgar Yojana Scheme, as these four cities have been excluded. So, I urge the Government to make some special programme for the unemployed youth in these four cities, specially in Calcutta. Unemployment problem is a big problem. So, Government should give some opportunity to the urban areas like Greater Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and Bombay through either Nehru Rozgar Yojana or any other special programme.

(x) **Need to provide adequate rail/road facilities to Vaishali in Bihar for developing the tourist potential in the region.**

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): Sir, although my constituency Vaishali is a historical site, yet the lack of communication and transport facilities are preventing the full use of its tourist potential. It needs rail and road connection immediately so that tourists who want to visit Buddhist pilgrim spots or who come from such distant lands as Japan are able to visit the place without much difficulty. For the overall development of the area also, these connections are essential. There is need to have a broad gauge line from Muzaffarpur to Raxaul which should be extended up to the border of Nepal to facilitate trade between the two countries. The roads in the area are in poor condition, particularly the culverts and bridges which cannot take heavy load. Even from security point of view, this is not a desirable situation. Either the Jhansi or Shahid Express should be extended up to Muzaffarpur and a halt for the University provided between Ramdayal Singh railway station and Muzaffarpur junction. The Muzaffarpur-Dhurian train should be reintroduced.