

- (ii) Need to set up a full-fledged TV station at Phulbani instead of the proposed low power transmitter

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Government of India have identified many places for the establishment of low power transmitters during the Seventh Plan. Phulbani in Orissa has been identified as one such place. But no step has been taken to materialise the above proposal so far.

Phulbani is ideally located for setting up T.V. station. A place called Kalunga Ghati in this district is situated at a height of 4000 ft. above the sea level. There are many such places in Phulbani which can be considered as suitable sites. If a T.V. station is located at any such places it will cover a portion of Ganjam, Koraput and Balangir distt. All these districts are mostly tribal populated.

In view of this, I request the honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting to set up a full-fledged T.V. Station in Phulbani district instead of the low power transmitter that is presently considered.

- (iii) Demand for setting up a colour TV studio in Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Goa is the home land of many a renowned artists the country has today. The place is made colourful by the nature too.

Recently, hon. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Vithalrao Gadgil announced in the Lok Sabha that the Government had decided to establish colour T.V. studios in all the Capitals of the States.

The decision of the Government and the initiatives taken by Shri Gadgil are really praise worthy. The Government's efforts in spreading the network of T.V. relay stations throughout the country in a short space of time has also widely been appreciated.

However, I would like to stress that a colour T.V. Studio in the colourful land of Goa is the need of the hour. Union Territories should not be discriminated as against States.

It is hoped that our Minister, Shri Vithalrao Gadgil, will soon announce the granting of a Colour Studio to colourful Goa.

[Translation]

- (iv) Demand for putting a curb on deforestation in Rajasthan

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if wanton felling of trees is not immediately stopped in Rajasthan, the whole state would turn into a desert. Forests, which were once treated as "green gold", are being ravaged and used as fuel even today. Only a small portion of forest is now left in the hill areas of Kota district and Rawat Bhatta and Masarrodgarh of Chittor district. The area around Naya Gaon, Boravas and Dolia villages is a reserved forest. The forest division Aonli Rojadidara is also a games Sanctuary. Thousands of people come in gangs, indulge in wanton felling of trees during the day and load them in trucks in the presence of forest officials. They also load big logs on motor cycles and even on bicycles and take them away in broad day light. Nobody is able to check them. If this continues, the reserve forests in Rajasthan would be completely destroyed. When will this be stopped? Crores of rupees are being spent on afforestation in the hope that the damage caused by felling of trees would be made good. But deforestation is even more and it neutralises the effort. As there is a nexus between the forest officials and these people, the felling of trees has become an occupation for them. These ravagers of 'green gold' cannot be checked without the help of Police or army. The local people are afraid of them. I would, therefore, request the Central Government to hear the wail of the Aravalis in this respect and prevent Rajasthan from becoming graveyard of forests.

[English]

- (v) Need to Convert metre gauge rail line between Guntakal and Hyderabad into a broad gauge line

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): Thousands of passengers

travel daily by train from Bangalore to Hyderabad and vice versa. Unfortunately, the train route is circuitous and metre gauge. The train journey between these two cities is a punishment to the passengers. It is a time consuming and cumbersome route. In fact, this route had been rejected by the Britishers during their regime. But even now this unpopular route is being used.

If the route between Guntakal and Hyderabad is converted into broad gauge, it will be the shortest and direct route between Bangalore and Hyderabad. This will reduce the distance by more than hundred kilometres. This will also reduce the distance of Karnataka Express running between New Delhi and Bangalore. In fact, this new route will be a boon to the people of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to look into this matter seriously and convert the metre gauge between Guntakal and Hyderabad to broad gauge immediately.

[*Translation*]

(vi) **Need for approval and completion of the Bawanthari irrigation project— an M. P. and Maharashtra joint project—on top priority**

SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI (Bhandara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very important matter under Rule 377.

Bawanthari Irrigation project is a joint irrigation project of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments. The work on this project was started in 1974. A lot of work had been completed in respect of canals but the construction of dams has not started as yet because the clearance from Central Government and the Forest Department is still awaited. When the project was approved in 1974, the estimated cost was Rs. 23 crores. In 1979 the estimated cost rose to Rs. 37 crores and now it is estimated to be Rs. 127 crores. The more the delay, the more the escalation in cost. The project was to provide irrigation facility to the drought affected areas nearby. The farmers of these areas are badly affected on account of drought and this project, on

which the work had started before the Forest Ordinance was issued, would irrigate over 1 lakh acres of land, particularly Adivasi areas. But the work on the construction of the dam has not started as yet.

Many irrigation projects in Maharashtra, particularly in Bhandara district are pending with the Forest Department for approval. As a result of this, there is great resentment among the farmers.

I would therefore request the Central Government to give clearance to Bawanthari Irrigation Project immediately and issue directions to both the state Governments to complete this project on top priority.

12.25 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED
FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY BILL
AND
AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED
FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT CESS
BILL—contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up item Nos. 14 and 15 and resume discussion on the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Bill and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Cess Bill. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil may continue his speech.

Please be brief and precise.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will conclude in five minutes.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had requested the Government yesterday to remove the Cess. When Government is giving cash incentive and subsidies to other Industries, there is no need to impose this Cess on agricultural export items. Secondly, S.T.C. is engaged in exports, some items are