

schemes has not been received from the Government.

This year Rajasthan specially Bikaner District has been affected by drought conditions. If these lift irrigation schemes are implemented in this area, the menace of drought can be eliminated for ever. The first lift of the Gajner lift irrigation canal will be 60 ft. This will provide irrigation facilities to nearly 2 lakh acres of land drinking water to villages. Out of all the lift irrigation schemes formulated till today, the Gajner lift irrigation will be most viable scheme. Hence, I would like to request the Government of India to accord the necessary approval to the scheme as soon as possible.

- (iii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to meet the situation caused by drought in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : This year the whole country is affected by drought. The whole of Uttar Pradesh is also in its grip. In this state the district of Muzaffarnagar has been given some relief in lump sum to tackle the drought situation. In this context I would like to point out to the Government that even after releasing of funds the farmers of my area are very distressed. On touring the majority of my villages I found that no drought-relief has been provided in my area. Canals and wells have dried up. At many places water has not been released into small canals till now. Old tubewells have not been repaired. In my area sugarcane centres are also at very far off places. I request the Government to kindly ensure that relief is provided to my area at the earliest.

- (iv) Need to declare Rajasthan State Highway No. 17 as a National Highway.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : In Rajasthan the city of Kota is situated on the Jabalpur-Jaipur National Highway No. 12. The State highway No. 17 connects the city of Kota with Shivpuri. Shivpuri is also situated on Delhi-Agra-Bombay National Highway No. 3. In

this way if State Highway No. 17 is upgraded then many big, small and medium cities as well as people living in villages of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will be greatly benefited. Keeping in mind the heavy traffic and movement of industrial products and foodgrain among big cities like Kota-Gwalior; Kanpur-Agra-Lucknow, Ujjain-Indore-Bhopal, Jaipur etc. The Rajasthan State Highway No. 17 should be upgraded by the Government.

- (v) Need to open LPG agencies in Gonda and other Tehsil Headquarters Gonda District.

SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN (Balrampur) : Even 40 years after independence there is a district called Gonda in Uttar Pradesh where there is no facility for the supply of L.P.G. (Cooking Gas). Advertisements are given, even people are selected, yet Gonda has not been given an agency. Fuel resources are very scarce there. Felling of trees in forests has been restricted. In the situation, the L.P.G., the use of which is wide spread today, should be provided not only in Gonda district headquarters but also in 5 Tehsil headquarters like Tulsipur, Utraula, Mankapur, Karnailganj and Tarabganj. This is an old demand of the masses which should be attended to and met by the Government.

[English]

- (vi) Need to provide drilling rigs for providing drinking water in drought affected districts of Bhind and Datia in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind) : I would like to draw the attention of the government and the House to the acute requirement of fast and deep drilling rigs for providing drinking water in the drought affected State of Madhya Pradesh particularly in Bhind and Datia Districts.

The hard stone structure in this area is such that ordinary drilling rigs are not successful. A very few fast and deep drilling rigs are available with the Government of Madhya Pradesh which are negligible in view of the actual requirement. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to provide more

such rigs to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Bhind and Datia Districts.

- (vii) Need to provide reservations for fishermen's children for training in the Central Institute of Fisheries and Engineering Training Centre at Visakhapatnam.

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada) : There is a Central Institute of Fisheries and an Engineering Training Centre at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The said Institute is supposed to train personnel for fishing and as engine drivers of fishing vessels. After completing the training the said Institute issues certificates of competency in second hand fishing, skipper in fishing and engine drivers in fishing vessels. There is no reservation provision for fishermen boys though the Institute is meant for fishing training. More than 40 lakh fishermen are living in Andhra Pradesh and a majority of fishermen are living in Visakhapatnam and Kakinada. I request provision for reservation of 31 per cent of the seats for fishermen boys in the Central Institute of Fisheries at Visakhapatnam.

- (viii) Need for central legislation to control and regulate the sales, possession and export of sandalwood oil.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Tamilnadu is the only State where there are a large number of sandalwood trees containing more scent (santhol) than anywhere else in the world. Sandalwood trees are grown with the help of tribals which provide employment to the poor and weaker sections of the forest in hills. The sandalwood export in the form of chips and powder fetches not less than Rs. 12 crores per annum in terms of foreign exchange to the Government of India. As it is there is no law to prohibit the possession of sandalwood oil beyond a certain quantity in the other States. The Government of India is requested to account each and every sandalwood oil extraction plant and also make it obligatory on exporters of sandalwood oil or dealers to disclose the source of purchase of sandalwood and sandalwood oil. The availability of sandalwood oil in India and the consumption of sandalwood by the sandalwood oil extraction plants in all the States including the States where there is no sandalwood is

disproportionate to the regular sale of sandalwood by the Forest Department of Tamilnadu Government. So a major portion of sandalwood consumed must be smuggled and stolen logs. There is a deliberate attempt from some quarters to change the existing export policy in order to ban or restrict the export of sandalwood chips and powder so that they may gain profit. If export of sandalwood logs is freely allowed, Tamil Nadu would stand to gain much more revenue but if the present policy is changed it would cause incalculable harm to the growth of sandalwood trees. Besides, there will be a heavy loss of revenue to the extent of Rs. 16 crores to Tamil Nadu and also Rs. 12 crores in terms of foreign exchange to the Government of India annually. Therefore, there is an urgency to bring legislation prohibiting the possession of sandalwood oil beyond a certain quantity and stop smuggling and illicit felling of sandalwood trees.

[Translation]

- (ix) Need to take necessary measures to safeguard the interests of small handloom weavers.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

“This country's handloom industry has been in existence since ancient times. This industry is a source of livelihood for nearly 8 crore weavers. But I have to say with deep regret that this ancient industry is not being encouraged in a proper way. The main reason for this is the high cost of thread and colouring agents and lack of arrangements for sale of weavers' produce. The second reason is that even though orders on large scale are received from abroad their advantages are taken away by money-lenders and middlemen. The economic condition of the weavers is getting pathetic day by day. Many skilful weavers are compelled to shift to other occupations or work as rickshaw pullers, fruit vendors etc. The new handloom policy has put the ordinary weaver at a disadvantage.

Looking at the circumstances in which the poor weavers are living I demand that the Central Government should look into these problems without further delay and in order to keep this industry alive the