

Rajakkamangalam in Kanyakumari District is the long standing need and necessity of the place. Investigations and examinations on the feasibility of the scheme have been conducted by an on the spot study by the Chief Engineer, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, the Port Officer, Tamil Nadu and other concerned authorities and a suitable site also has been identified which is mainly government land previously used for salt manufacture and now defunct and declared unfit and kept waste and thereby this land along with portions of adjoining areas would be adequate and sufficient to meet the requirements of the project could be made available and that too on easy terms without huge compensatory costs. Infrastructural facilities and other circumstances are also favourable for its installation. Nagercoil railway station and Colachel Port are 10 KM and 6 KM respectively from this place. The proposed rail link to Colachel harbour touches this place. No new public sector project has been located in Tamil Nadu for the past 15 years. Kanyakumari District has been declared as an industrially backward District by the Central Government. But not even a single industry either in public sector or private sector is established in this backward isolated distant southernmost part of the country where there is acute problem of unemployment both educated and uneducated. Installation of this project would satisfy the longstanding wish, anxiety and aspirations of the people of this backward area. So Government may be pleased to take speedy steps for the early installation of this project.

[Translation]

- (v) **Need to give adequate financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide relief to the farmers whose crops have been destroyed by heavy rains, hailstorms etc.**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of

the House to the following important subject under Rule 377

The recent gales, rains and hailstorms in the whole of northern India resulted in uprooting the trees, blockade of roads etc. All traffic came to a standstill. Foodgrains in the barns and chaff stored by the farmers have been soaked and destroyed on a large scale on account of the sudden rains. Many people were killed in various accidents which occurred during these days. The worst affected states were Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. In the cities of Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, it rained heavily and in some places hailstorms were also there. The farmers suffered huge losses in Azamgarh, Ballia and other districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The attention of the State Government was drawn but no action has been taken so far. The condition of the farmers is very miserable and it is like snatching away the uneaten food lying before a person or like the death of someone's young son. I request that the Centre should direct the State Governments to do the needful and also make special financial allocations to enable them to provide relief to farmers in time.

[English]

- (vi) **Need to develop Araku valley and other places of tourist attraction in Vizag district of Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada) In Vizag District there are a number of tourist centres. At present our country needs a lot of foreign exchange. Through these tourist centres we can earn a lot of foreign exchange. These are all located 50 miles around the Vizag city. Everyone is aware of Araku Valley. It attracts the foreigners as well as persons from film world. But there is no accommodation for them. So many people are coming forward to construct hotels etc. If the Central Government gives forest land on lease to these persons it would solve the problem.

[Shri Gopal Krishna Thota]

Araku has a name for its beauty. There are also other places like Anantagiri, Paderu, Chintapalli. These are all well-known to foreign tourists. If we develop these places, definitely we will get a lot of foreign exchange.

(vii) Need to formulate a total water management plan for flood control and drainage of Mahananda basin in Bihar

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I would like to bring to the notice of the House today the following matter of urgent public importance:

North-east Bihar lying between the Kosi and Teesta basins is subject to recurrent floods. This region is the basin of the river Mahananda and its tributaries Parmah, Dok Michi, Bakra, etc., which not only swell enormously during the rainy season, draining their waters from the Himalayas but also frequently change course and give rise to salination in some places. The problem of flood control is aggravated by the problem of silting, salination and erosion. Nothing worthwhile has been done so far to tame these rivers and no long term integrated plan has yet been formulated for the Mahananda basin. From year to year, some palliative measures like dredging silted channel or reinforcing a bank subjected to erosion are undertaken on a small scale to meet emergency situations. The assurance by the Ministry of Water Resources that an integrated long term plan for flood control and water management for the Mahananda basin shall be undertaken by the Ganga basin Commission with the assistance of the Government of Bihar has not yet been fulfilled.

Water management shall not only control flooding but also help overcome water scarcity for irrigation during the dry season and solve the drainage and consequent erosion and desalination problem of

the area. It is requested that the Ministry of Water Resources may take the initiative to formulate a total water management plan for flood control and drainage of the Mahananda basin, extend necessary technical assistance to the Government of Bihar in this regard and sanction funds for its progressive implementation within a reasonable time frame.

[Translation]

(viii) Need to take steps to re-open Co-operative Sugar Factory and Gauribidanur in Karnataka

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): The Cooperative Sugar Factory of Gauribidanur in Karnataka has been closed. The Karnataka Government is trying to sell the factory. On account of this, thousands of workers and their family members are rendered jobless. Some of them have already migrated to the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in search of jobs. Unless immediate steps are taken, the workers and their family members will continue to starve.

I therefore urge upon the Government of India to take up immediate relief measures and arrange to get the cooperative sugar factory without any further delay.

[English]

(ix) Need to set up a Bench of Orissa High Court at Sambalpur in Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The necessity of setting up a bench of the Orissa High Court at Sambalpur, the centre of the Western part of the State need not be over-emphasised. The ruling party in the State is also committed to this genuine demand of the people of that area by including the same in its election manifesto as back as in 1974. But it is regretted that on some plea or other its implementation is being delayed causing a great deal of discontent.

* The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.