

ment would pay his special attention towards this demand.

[English]

(v) Need to fix norms for utilising funds available for maintenance of irrigation dams

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): This is a year of severe famine in Rajasthan and it is very essential that every drop of water available in tanks and in irrigation Dams is economically and profitably utilised to grow crops in the State.

It has however been observed that lot of water is going waste in Gopalpura Dam, in Umaid Sagar Dam and in the Sarans in Sita Bari in Tehsil Kishen Ganj. It is also going waste in Sarans in Tehsil Atru in Kota District.

Lot of water is similarly wasted in Bhim Sagar Dam and in Harish Chander Sagar Dam in Jhalawar District. The wastage of water in these places is due to lack of maintenance of the canal system and of dams. The reason given for poor maintenance is that all the funds under "maintenance head" gets used up in the payment of salaries of the work charged staff and nothing is left for actual maintenance.

In view of these factors, I request the Minister of Water Resources to fix up a norm where the salaries and the strength of the staff is kept within limit and the interests of the cultivators and of the State do not suffer on account of overhead charges in future.

(vi) Demand for setting up a 100 MW Thermal Plant near Cochin Refinery to meet the power needs of the area

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) There is acute shortage of power in Kerala. There is no likelihood of any heavy rain and getting power from hydel project, in the near future. The Cochin Oil Refinery has got oil, and a one hundred MGW Thermal Plant can

be started near the refinery, which can cater to the needs of the locality.

(vii) Demand for reconsidering the cess of 3.6 per cent on FOB prices of pepper

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram): India's pepper exports have fallen sharply during this season. The cess imposed by the Government on pepper will further push down the exports.

The Government has imposed a cess of 3.5 per cent on FOB prices of pepper, with effect from November 6. This is certainly going to adversely affect the pepper exports. At the current level, FOB prices are in the region of Rs. 63,000/- per tonne. The new levy, along with the existing levies, works out to 15 per cent of the cost price. The Indian pepper is already out-priced in the international market, and the present levy is going to further weaken our position in the pepper trade.

I, therefore, request the Government to re-consider this levy and take all steps to reduce the cost of production of pepper, so as to make it competitive in the international market.

(viii) Need to absorb the loaders-cum-packers earlier working with Air Freight (P) Ltd. in International Airports Authority of India

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South). About 100 loaders-cum-packers were employed by Air Freight (P) Ltd. at Madras Airport Cargo Complex from 1978 to November 1985. But all of a sudden, the IAAI terminated the contract with Air Freight (P) Ltd., and employed these loaders as casual labourers. They were working for eight months in a year as casual labourers, upto June 1986. They were then advised to form a cooperative society and enter into contract with IAAI to perform the job of loaders and packers, which has accordingly been done.