

schools, particularly those located in tribal areas. I request that the above measure be taken to check the large-scale drop outs of ST children without any further delay.

[Translation]

(ii) Scientific Research Centre for coconut in Karnataka.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur)* : Sir, in Karnataka State, Tumkur district is very famous for coconut production. Coconuts are sent from here to all parts of the country. Copra of Tiptur is very popular. In spite of this, there is not even a single scientific Research Centre of coconut in the entire Karnataka State. In Karnataka, coconut is one of the very important commercial crops. Even then there are no facilities of research and information to the farmer about the diseases of coconut plants. This has resulted in the reduction of coconut production in the entire State and the condition of the poor coconut grower has become miserable.

Therefore, a research centre has to be opened in Karnataka State to give all information to the farmers about coconut cultivation. A plan has to be prepared in this regard to help the poor farmers. The State Government has come forward to sanction 1000 acres of land near Gubbi Taluk for the said purpose.

(iii) Allocation of sufficient funds for completion of 2nd and 3rd phases of Banspani-Jakhpura railway line during 7th Plan

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar)** : Sir, the construction of the first phase of the Banspani Jakhpura railway line between Jakhpura and Daitari was completed and opened for traffic in the year 1979. After that, the Government of India decided to take up the construction of second and third phases of this railway line. The second phase of the above rail link was accorded sanction for construction during the Sixth Plan. But it is a matter of great regret that the

construction of the second phase has not been started so far. The State Government of Orissa has completed the land acquisition work. But the Government of India has been neglecting the construction of this line on the plea of financial stringency. I demand that the second and third phases of Banspani Jakhpura railway line should be given priority in construction during the Seventh Plan and necessary funds should be allocated accordingly.

[English]

(iv) Declaration of inland Waterways of Kerala as National waterways

DR. K.G. ADIYODI (Calicut) : Sir, Kerala enjoys regular inland navigation system because of several west-flowing rivers and a coast-line interspread with canals and back-waters. The total navigable route length is 1995 kms. These waterways constituted the main means of transport before the development of roads and the advent of motor vehicles. The centre of this inland water system is the 83 km. Vembanad lake, and the main waterway is the west coast canal of 558 kms. The waterways enable the distribution of agricultural products and serves the needs of merchants such as coir, timber, brick tiles, fertiliser, rubber, etc. They provide access to several minor ports and to the major port at Cochin.

The waterway is shallow in certain regions and is not navigable even with vessels in use at present due to lack of maintenance, and deepening of the shallow portions has not been carried out as required due to paucity of funds. The inland water transport system carries an average of four million tons of freight traffic and 26 million passengers every year. The State Government requested the Central Government to declare the west coast canal as a national waterway and to provide assistance for its development.

The cost of transport by water is cheaper, i.e., one-fifth when compared by road and 1/20th when compared by rail. By developing the inland waterways, consumption of petrol/diesel can be reduced and the cost of transport in general reduced. For preventing floods, widening and deepening of the canal system is the essential aspect of the system.

*The speech originally delivered in Kannada.

**The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

Kerala is famous for the natural beauty of the land and by providing facilities for the tourists, the entire State will be benefited by increased tourist traffic. I, therefore, request the Union Government to take necessary action to declare the inland waterways of Kerala as a national waterway and assist by providing necessary funds.

[Translation]

(v) Setting up of a Doordarshan Relay Centre at Hanumangarh in Rajasthan

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance that in Hanumangarh (Rajasthan), which is on the Indo-Pak border, a TV Relay Centre should be set up.

The Central Government's resolve to make available the National Programmes of Doordarshan to the maximum people and its implementation is laudable.

Recently, in Srigangangar a low power Doordarshan Relay Centre has been commissioned. Hanumangarh being out of the range of Srigangangar and Suratgarh in East, the people of the area cannot view the programmes of these Centres. The programmes of Amritsar and Jalandhar Centres can be seen occasionally depending on the climate. Lahore (Pakistan) station's programmes, of course, are received with clarity and are, therefore, very popular in this area.

It is very necessary to stop cultural infiltration by Pakistan. Some 6 lakh people of this area, which consists of one Municipal Corporation area, four Municipality areas and one Tehsil Headquarter, including many big villages in 2 thousand square kms. of area are forced to watch these programmes as they are deprived of the National Programmes. I, therefore, submit to the Communications Minister of the Central Government that in the above circumstances to avoid Pakistan programmes it has become a national necessity to set up a Doordarshan Relay Centre in Hanumangarh.

It is, therefore, humbly requested that in the national interest, a Doordarshan Relay Centre should be set up immediately in Hanumangarh.

[English]

(vi) Taking up the matter with Bangladesh for ensuring proper treatment of waste water of Darshana Sugar Mills being discharged into the Churni river to prevent pollution

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip) : Sir, The waste waters of Darshana Sugar Mills and Brewery in Bangladesh pollute the river Churni in the district of Nadia in West Bengal throughout the year. In the past this problem had been taken up with the then East Pakistan authorities and afterwards with the Bangladesh authorities, but with very temporary results. The pollution is deadly for fish and fowl and most of the time the river water is unfit even for bathing cattle not to speak of any human use. Besides having deprived the fishermen of their traditional livelihood, the pollution has been creating health hazards of an alarming dimension directly to tens of thousands of our citizens.

Government should take up the matter immediately and urgently with the Bangladesh Government and ensure that the waste waters of Darshana Mill are properly treated before being poured into the river Churni (Mathablanga in Bangladesh) and thus relieve the people from constant fear.

(vii) Remunerative price for sugarcane

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, sugarcane crushing season is fast approaching. Sugar is being sold at very high prices in the country. The country is importing lakhs of tonnes of sugar spending very huge foreign exchange. Cane area reduced due to the unremunerative price for cane for the last few years. The cane grower is very much disappointed with the policy of the Government which is showing more attention to the sugar industry by increasing levy sugar price after the end of previous sugarcane crushing season while denying the just price to growers. So, to induce the grower to go for more cane area there is urgent need to announce remunerative price of Rs. 25 per quintal linked to 9 per cent recovery for the ensuring season. This will help in supply of most of the cane to the vacuum pan sugar factories and discourage diversion of cane to Gur and Khandasari sectors. This will also have definite bearing