

dam at the foothill in Nepal, i.e. at BARAHAKSHETRA.

A few years ago talks were held between the representatives of the Government of India and Nepal on the need to construct this dam. But for one reason or the other, the project remained shelved. As on date, our relations with Nepal are very cordial, and a time has come when this Project should be undertaken in right earnest. The dam, if completed, would generate hydro-electricity to the extent of 7000 mw. It is far cheaper as compared to thermal power. Power, if available to the people at such a cheap rate, would give a big push to the stagnant economy of Nepal and Bihar. Other Northern States of India may also be benefited. This will bring almost a revolutionary change both in agriculture and industry in both the countries. Additional employment opportunities might be generated for millions in these two countries. Besides, the dam would provide water to irrigate more than 40 lakh acres of land in the two countries. It would also check the menace of floods which is an annual feature. As such it is requested that the Government of India should initiate talks with the Government of Nepal at an early date and get this dam constructed.

(iii) Need to set up National Cultural Council as an apex body to co-ordinate the activities with State academies etc. to provide incentives to the writers of regional languages

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The Government of India and the Sahitya Academy have instituted a number of awards, prizes and incentives for the writers in the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as also in those languages which are recognised by the Sahitya Akademi but not included in the Eighth Schedule.

A number of regional and tribal languages spoken by over millions of people and aspiring for recognition by the

Government and the Central Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and National School of Drama are still not patronised and in spite of their having rich literary and theatre traditions and enough literary output at present, the writers working in them have still no recognition at the Central level. Some of them like Pahari in Himachal Pradesh are patronised by the State Akademies but they have limited resources.

It is, therefore, in the interest of Promotion of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the nation that these languages and dialects which are rich in folklore and also vibrant with literary activity at the moment are encouraged and patronised and a well-coordinated plan in consultation with the State Akademies is drawn up by the Sahitya Academy, Sangit Natak Akademy and the National School of Drama, the Publications Division, the National Book Trust, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, and the Department of Culture, in the Ministry of Education. The writers and scholars working in them should be given awards, incentives and prizes as also assistance for publication of their works and ensured of better circulation through translations so that the rich literary output in these languages continues to blossom.

I request the Ministers of Human Resource Development and Information and Broadcasting to coordinate their efforts by setting up National Cultural Council as an apex body to coordinate the activities with the Central and State Akademies, Government Department, voluntary Associations as also provide adequate incentive to the writers, scholars and performing artists.

(iv) Demand to connect Gopalpur-Bhubaneswar Vayudoot service and to extend it to Andhra Pradesh

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Berhampur (District Ganjam) is the second biggest city in Orissa with cultural herit-

[Shri Somnath Rath]

age, places of tourist attraction and trade centre. There is an air-strip near Berhampur at Gopalpur-on-Sea. The Berhampur University, Military Cantonment and Rare Earth Complex are close to this air strip. Bhubaneswar, Capital of Orissa, is connected with Jaypore (District Koraput) by Vayudoot Service flying over Gopalpur. There is a great demand from the people of southern part of Orissa to connect Gopalpur by Vayudoot service to Bhubaneswar as well as to Andhra Pradesh by the same Vayudoot service. As such steps should be taken to land the Vayudoot plane at Gopalpur while flying to Jaypore (Koraput District) and then to Andhra Pradesh from Bhubaneswar and Vice-versa.

- (v) **Need to provide financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh to meet the drought situation in Anantapur district**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): Problem of drinking water has become very acute in the District of Anantapur as this district experienced drought condition for the past eight years and due to this all irrigation wells and draw-wells have got dried up. Bores drilled for drinking water have also got dried up as the water table has receded below.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In order to obviate this difficulty and supply of drinking water to this area and also to irrigate three lakh acres of land, the Government of Andhra Pradesh got an investigation conducted. According to this plan 42 TMC of surplus water can be drawn from the foreshores of Tungabhadra dam. Allowing 12 TMC for Vijayanagar steel Plant and water supply for Bellary in Karnataka State, 30 TMC can be utilised for eight talukas in Anantapur District namely Rayadurgam, Kalyanadurgam, Kambadoor, Kanekal, Anantapur, Dharavaram,

Chinnekothappalli and Satyasai Taluk. The preliminary investigation was completed in January, 1986. At an estimated cost of Rs. 220 crores, 3 lakh acres of land in 110 villages could be irrigated by this project in addition to supply of drinking water.

Andhra Pradesh Government could not take up this work for want of funds. It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government may take up this project as a special case to save the people of drought affected areas and supply water for irrigation and drinking.

- (vi) **Need to ensure that the small scale industrial units do not lose their status as an 'export house' at the time of renewal due to conditions laid down in new Import-Export Policy**

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): In terms of para 248 (2) (b) of Import Export Policy 1985—88 a new condition has been imposed for the first time for grant of an export house certificate to a small scale manufacturer-exporter. As per this para 50 per cent of the total exports should be from the manufacture of the small scale industries units irrespective of the growth rate of exports. In order to remove the anomaly the total exports made by SSI unit, at least 50 per cent limit should be applicable to its own production and not its total exports. The small scale sector has already been contributing a great measure to our total exports. It should be given all the encouragement to do better than before. The above policy of the Government works in the opposite direction. It is very important to see that more encouragement should be given to SSI units to become export houses or at least an export house should not lose its status as an export house at the time of renewal due to the condition laid down in the policy referred to above.