

If proper steps are not taken, Sone belt of Bihar which is considered a rice-bowl, will be converted into a desert. In the meanwhile, the water-tax this year should be condoned and proper steps should be taken to release water. This is partly not possible because of the damages in the canal, which causes loss and which has been assessed by World Bank and they have suggested a scheme of Rs. 1,200 crores. This scheme should be implemented without any delay.

[*Translation*]

- (ii) **Need to entrust the erstwhile Tagore Hospital of Dandakaranya Project to the National Institution of Communicable, Delhi**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): After the completion of Dandakaranya Project, Belladila or Bhilai Steel Plant refused to run the Kondagam Tagore Hospital. As it is, the local people had a doubt in their mind that once the administration of the hospital is transferred to State Government, there will be a drastic fall in the quality of its functioning. Though the Central Government has approved to meet the entire expenses of the hospital for the next 5 years the entire management of the hospital has been dislocated since it came under the charge of the State Government.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to run this hospital as a branch of the centrally administered National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi.

[*English*]

- (iii) **Need to set up electronic industries in Mithila region of Bihar**

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mithila region of North Bihar is one of the most backward regions of the country. There is no industry in this region worth the name. The investment by the Central Government in this region is negligible. This has retarded

the economic growth of Mithila and has pushed up unemployment which is resulting in social unrest. The situation needs to be changed.

The Central Government has a scheme to encourage electronic industry. A large number of concessions have been announced in the last two Budgets for the electronic industry. The advantages of electronic industry are many, the most important being total lack of pollution. Mithila is the most suitable place for setting up large number of electronic industries. This will, on the one hand, solve the unemployment problem and on the other improve the economic condition of the region.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to take initiative in setting up some electronic industries in Mithila. Besides, it should sanction special allocation for Bihar so that it may set up a chain of electronic industries in the Mithila region.

- (iv) **Demand for conversion of State Highway between Kadiri and Anantapur into a National Highway**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): There is a cause way across river 'Chitravathi' on State Highway between Kadiri and Anantapur. This cause way was very badly damaged this year due to heavy rains. Traffic could not pass through this cause way as there was heavy down pour and the river was in spates for three or four days and traffic was held up.

It is requested that steps may be taken immediately for converting this state highway into a National Highway and construction of a bridge across the river 'Chitravathi' may be taken up at an early date.

- (v) **Need to include cultural troupes from Assam in the Festivals of India held abroad**

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): Although Assam is noted for its traditionally

[Sh. Parag Chaliha]

rich and colourful culture, it is distressing to note that only once—or, at the most twice in course of decades—a cultural troupe from Assam has been selected for any exhibition and/or demonstration in foreign countries. In course of the series of the Festivals of India in UK, USA, France, Sweden, Japan and USSR, only once a cultural party from Assam was included for a programme under the Festival. Although many well-known experts in painting and graphic arts as also artisans with proved excellence in weaving, designing and handicraft are available in Assam, yet not one of them has ever been sponsored by the Government of India to visit or demonstrate abroad. While internationally famous maestros in the arts must necessarily be invited for displaying their artistry in other countries, it is also imperative that the inherent skill and acumen of the people of the rural and backward regions should be patronised for wider and fuller exposition of their talents, so that they feel inspired for furtherance of their artistic and professional skills.

The Department of Culture, is therefore urged to take urgent effective steps so as to allay the misgivings in this regard persisting in the minds of the people of Assam.

[Translation]

- (vi) **Need to set up thermal plants at Kapurdi and Jalepa for meeting the shortage of electricity in desert areas of Rajasthan**

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): A lignite based thermal plant of 2x210 MW capacity is being set up by the Neyvelli lignite corporation at Barsingsar area of Bikaner district in the State of Rajasthan. The power to be generated from that plant will be allotted to Rajasthan.

Arrangements should be made to ensure that the above thermal plant starts generation of power at the earliest possible and the State Electricity Board receives

electricity from that plant at the earliest.

Apart from this lignite deposits of about 10 crore tonnes have been found at Jalepa in Barmer district. Thermal plants of 1000 MW capacity each could be set up Kapurdi and Jalepa on the basis of these deposits.

There is acute shortage of power in the State as compared to the requirements of the people. It should, therefore, be ensured that the State of Rajasthan receives power from these thermal plants as it has been receiving from the plant at Barasingsar. The above work should be started within one year and the problem of power in the desert area should be solved accordingly.

[English]

- (vii) **Need to set up paper mills in Phulbani district of Orissa**

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Phulbani is one of the backward districts in Orissa. It was identified as a 'No Industry district' in 1982. After that, Government have taken steps to set up some industries in that district. But most of industries set up in that district were small units. It is regretted that those units have fallen sick. Phulbani is ideally located for setting up of forest-based units like pulp and paper mill. If such units are set up in that district, it will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem of that district. I, therefore, request that efforts should be made immediately to set up some major and medium paper mills in Phulbani district, Orissa.

13.31 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (TAMIL NADU) 1988-89...Contd.

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion and vot-