

[SHRI K. J. ABBASI]

After the launching of the project, land was acquired diversions were made and all initial work was undertaken. Now, for a very long time there has been no progress in the work and the people are waiting eagerly for its completion. It is understood that there is paucity of funds with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and that is why there is delay in the actual implementation of this important project.

The Union Minister of Water Resources is requested to look into the difficulties in the way of the Project and provide necessary resources for its early completion.

- (iii) Need to provide financial assistance to arecanut growers of Kerala, Karnataka and Assam.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): About six lakh arecanut growers in Kerala and Karnataka have been put to a severe financial stringency due to crash in prices of arecanut in the last two years. The price of dried arecanut was Rs. 25.30 per kilo in 1985 which reduced to 20 in 1986 and Rs. 15-16 in 1987. The price declined to Rs. 1,300 per quintal in the second week of December 1987 and again went down to Rs. 1200 in the last week of January 1988. It is also reported that the chances of improvement in the price are remote as per Central Arecanut Marketing and Processing Cooperative Society. Sir, there are 60,909 hectares under arecanut in Kerala and 54,300 hectares in Karnataka with an annual production of 53,200 and 79,200 tonnes of nuts respectively. Assam has also 50,800 hectares under arecanut with annual production of 49,800 tonnes of nuts. Sir, in view of the above position, it has become necessary that arecanut growers are provided sufficient financial assistance by the Union Government, otherwise the arecanut growers in the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Assam will be put to great difficulties.

12.19 hrs

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair*]

- (iv) Need to strengthen Darbhanga T.V. transmitter

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur):

Owing to our strenuous efforts the Central

Government commissioned the Darbhanga Doordarshan TV relay station. But its transmitter is extremely weak as a result of which people residing in neighbouring villages are not able to view TV programmes properly.

On the other hand in the border districts of Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sabarsa, Purnea and Katihar TV programmes of Nepal and Bangladesh are clearly viewed.

It is, therefore, requested that Darbhanga TV transmitter be strengthened immediately. Besides, TV transmitters be installed on strategic border places like Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Birpur, Sabarsa, Purnea and Katihar in Bihar at an early date.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except what he has read out, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

- (v) Need to accept the recommendations of Mandal Commission for treating Telaga, Kapu and Balijas as backward classes.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali): Telaga, Kapu and Balijas of Andhra Pradesh constitute a single major community, 90% of whom are backward in all aspects, poor and illiterate. They have been neglected politically, socially and economically. They have been agitating for long to include them in the list of backward classes, but to no effect.

The Mandal Commission appointed by the Government of India also recommended them to be included in the list of backward classes. The recommendation therefore has not yet been implemented by the Government of India. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to implement the report of the Mandal Commission and include these communities in the list of backward classes.

*Not recorded.