

rosewood, teak, eucalyptus, neem etc. should be planted there. By making these arrangements the Government will have assets worth crores of rupees, the unemployed persons will get jobs and it will also reduce the intensity of drought in this region.

[English]

(iv) Need to include Sonapat (Haryana) in the National Capital Region.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonapat) : District headquarters Sonapat is big industrial town of Haryana which is situated only about forty kms. from Delhi. It is a fast developing town and requires proper planning in all respects. The other towns situated far away from Delhi, like Panipat, Mathura, Alwar, Rewari and Rohtak have been included in the National Capital Region whereas Sonapat has not been included in National Capital Region. About forty thousand people daily come from Sonapat to Delhi to attend their offices and other business concerns. It is, therefore, requested that Sonapat Town of Haryana be included in National Capital Region to check haphazard and unplanned growth of this area.

[Translation]

(v) Need to introduce question papers in regional languages in competitive examinations.

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the compulsory English paper and English medium in All India Competitive Examinations and Admission Tests held for Engineering Colleges and Technological Institutes. Even after forty years of independence, students of our country are forced to learn English language and as a result only the students belonging to the well-to-do families are able to pass the aforesaid examinations whereas most of the students belonging to the rural and backward areas are not able to clear these examinations due to their poor knowledge of English language. According to the survey of NCERT only seven per cent students study English and the remaining 93 per cent students study in Hindi and other regional languages in the whole country. Last year 90 per cent of English medium students qualified in I.I.T. examinations while 93 per

cent students studying Hindi and regional languages could get only ten per cent seats in it. Besides, All India Examinations such as National Defence Academy, All India Premedical Test, FMC, Puna, Indian Forest Services, there are several other examinations in which English paper is of 150 marks and is compulsory, though there is no need of it along with science subjects and a Question Paper in Hindi and other regional languages can be substituted in its place. This should be done because it is very difficult for the students to complete these examinations after studying upto class 12th in Hindi and regional medium.

Keeping in view these problems I, therefore, request to the Government that English paper should not be compulsory in such examinations but it should be made optional in the interests of the regional students and the candidates should be allowed to opt for Hindi or their own regional language so that every citizen of the country may be able to compete in all important examinations like Civil Services etc.

[English]

(vi) Need to construct a bridge over Brahmaputra river near Dibrugarh in Assam.

SHRI M. R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : Sir, Duliajan and Naduwa are two important Indian Army base-stations in Upper Assam. Troop movement from this area to far-flung Chinese border in Arunachal Pradesh used to be done via Guwahati which has now been switched via Kalia Bhomaraguri over Brahmaputra river near Tezpur. The army has to travel approximately 500 kms. from these bases to reach their destination. The entire North bank of Brahmaputra river and Arunachal Pradesh is very much backward in all spheres viz., trade commerce and industry, as the area is not connected with any major town of Assam. Guwahati is more than 500 kms. by road. In case there is a direct road-link through a bridge over the Brahmaputra, near Dibrugarh town, it will be only 100 kms. from North Lakhimpur and 150 kms. from Itanagar.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to take initiative for construction of a bridge near Dibrugarh over the