

[Translation]

(ii) Need to get the Supreme Court's stay order vacated on Provident fund in the Beedi Industry

****SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN** (Palghat) : The Central Government had extended Provident Fund to Beedi industry since June, 1977. Accordingly, the Beedi Industry owners started collecting the contribution from the workers. In the meantime a writ was filed in the Supreme Court by two Beedi industry owners belonging to Madhya Pradesh. The Supreme Court stayed the operation of Provident Fund in the Beedi industry in 1980. This stay is still in operation. No worthwhile attempt has been made by the Government to get this stay vacated. As long as this stay is in operation, the workers do not get the legitimate benefits which they deserve.

Therefore, I would request the Government to move in the matter and get this stay vacated as quickly as possible.

(iii) Need to provide rehabilitation grant and compensation by the Union Government to farmers affected by Water-logging in Suratgarh area of Rajasthan due to seepage from Indira Gandhi Canal

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the areas between Mastawali, the first head of the Indira Canal and Ghaghar Flood control, up to Suratgarh head (Rajasthan) have been water logged by the canal waters for the last two or three years. Since there has been constant waterlogging in the rural areas, the residential houses have collapsed and agricultural land has been rendered uncultivable. Thus, agriculture which is the only means of livelihood of the people of that area, has come to a stand still only very small financial assistance has been provided by Government so far, and that too only to some people.

Therefore, I strongly urge that the Central Government should give rehabilitation grant and compensation to those whose houses have collapsed and have been destroyed by waterlogging. At the same time, the land which has been rendered uncultivable should be made cultivable with the help of modern implements and techniques. Besides, the recovery

of various loans and advances given by Government and the banks should be suspended.

(iv) Need to complete the work of laying broad gauge line linking Pathankot with Barmer on the Rajasthan border

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a policy of neglect has been adopted in the matter of laying new railway lines in the desert and border areas of Rajasthan since Independence.

A broad gauge railway line has already been laid between Pathankot and Suratgarh. The railway line between Suratgarh and Bikaner is of great strategic importance. The construction work on this line is going on speedily. Pathankot can be connected with Kandla Port if a broad gauge line is constructed from Bikaner to Abu Road via Jaisalmer, Barmer and Sachor. Kandla Port will be very useful for the industrial development of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and Western U. P.

The above railway lines will be of great importance from the point of view of national security. The work on the Rajasthan canal, now called the 'Indira canal', is also continuing on a war footing. The above canal has already reached Nachna and Mohangarh of Jaisalmer district and the Government of Rajasthan have decided to extend it up to Gadhra Road through Lilua Sagarmal Gopa branch. There are abundant reserves of salt, gypsum, lignite, lime and Jaisalmer stone in the above area. The possibilities of finding gas and petrol in the Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts have increased. Thus, this area is poised for a leap forward. Kandla Port will be of much use for the development of this area.

Therefore, the Railway Ministry is requested to complete the work of laying a broad gauge line from Pathankot to Kandla via Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer by including it in the Seventh Plan so as to speed up the development of these border and desert areas as well as backward areas of Rajasthan.

****The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.**