

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

favourably the question of location of a nuclear plant in Orissa in order to save Orissa from power famine and also help in reducing the imbalances in infrastructural development.

(iv) Need to provide telephone facilities in Mahabarod in Dhenkanal district in Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mahabarod in Kankadabad Panchayat Samiti of Dhenkanal district in Orissa is a Gram Panchayat headquarters. This is the second important place in this tribal as well as backward block. Within a radius of about 25 kms. of this place, there is neither any telephone exchange nor any PCO. A PCO has, however, been sanctioned long since considering the importance of this place and its necessity. But it is regretted that the sanctioned PCO is yet to come up. Existence of high tension electric line along the proposed telephone route is causing such delay in providing telephone facility to Mahabarod as given out by the concerned authority. But this plea of the Department is far from convincing since this well deserving place could have been provided with telephone facility much before either by taking telephone line along another route or taking recourse to microwave system. Anyway, on the principle of 'better late than never, the Department should now take immediate steps so as to bring Mahabarod on the telephone map of the country by means of a suitable alternative method and thus mitigate the ever increasing discontentment and resentment of the people.

[Translation]

(v) Need for Improvement in communication and transport system in Mau (U.P.)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to inform that certain area from Ajamgarh and Balia district of Uttar Pradesh have been taken to form a separate district

Mau. This district has large population which include weavers and farmers. Industrial and other activities have accelerated there as soon as it was declared a district. But the inadequate facilities of transport, communication, industry and power would add to the problems of people in the near future. From the administrative point of view also, this place has become a nucleus points. So, I would urge the Government to link this area with the other parts of the country through microwave and to improve the train service on this metre gauge section to all sides, North South, east and west. Besides, effective measures should also be taken to convert the metre gauge into broad gauge and to provide adequate funds to complete the gauge conversion project at Varanasi-Bhutan line by the year 1990.

[English]

(vi) Need for the Department of Steel to buy the blast furnace from H.E.C instead of importing second hand blast furnace

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Government's declared policy is for indigenisation of industry. But in practice it supports import on plant and equipments for setting up industries.

The Department of Steel has decided to import a second hand blast furnace despite the fact that the Heavy Engineering Corporation, a public sector unit, has the capability to meet the requirement indigenously. The Ministry of Industry also supported the steel department's decision after examining the indigenous availability position from HEC but in fact the Ministry of Industry never consulted HEC. The proposed blast furnace will cost the nation over Rs. 150 crores with foreign exchange component of over Rs 26 crores.

It is reported that HEC is capable to produce 2000 cubic metre capacity blast furnace, having already done so for the Vizag and Bhilai Steel plants. The order

position of the HEC is also not very good at present. This particular order would have gone a long way to help the public sector unit. The blast furnace to be imported is second hand and no body knows its date of manufacture.

I therefore, request the Minister concerned to cancel the deal and buy the blast furnace from H.E.C

(vii) Need to construct bridges to connect Vypeen, Vallarpadam and Mulavucaidu Islands with the main land

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukindapuram) : The plan to construct a chain of bridges to connect three densely-populated islands namely Vypeen, Vallarpadam and Mulavucadu in the Ernakulam backwaters with the mainland is being shelved. These three islands are cut off from the mainland and the people are depending mainly on ferry boats to come here. These boats are so overcrowded that many accidents take place resulting in heavy toll of lives. The proposal to construct bridges has been hanging fire for the past 40 years. These islanders are engaged in fishing activities and coir manufacturing etc. and are contributing Rs. 100 crores a year as foreign exchange. It will be unfortunate if this proposal is not accepted and bridges are not constructed soon. I would, therefore, request that immediate steps be taken by the Union Government to construct the bridges.

(viii) Need to set up units for processing Cashew apples in Cannanore, Kasargod and Calicut districts of Kerala

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) Kerala is one of the States that makes considerable contribution to the Cashew export of the country. However, tons of Cashew apple is going waste in the State for want of proper facilities for processing.

It is understood that the Agricultural university, Trichur has in the course of research identified several products that can be profitable produced from cashew apple.

Malabar area in Kerala and especially the Cannanore, Kasargod and Calicut districts produce a lot of cashew every year and it is therefore my earnest request that the hon. Minister for Food Processing may be pleased to set up units under the Central sector for processing cashew apple in Cannanore and neighbouring districts.

This will not only benefit the farmers but also afford employment opportunity to hundreds in these otherwise backward districts.

12.20 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. Shri Chavan.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move:

" That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to amend clause (2) of Article 276 of the Constitution to increase the ceiling of profession tax from Rs 250 per person per annum to Rs 250 per person per annum.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, Clause (2) of article 276 of the Constitution provides that the Legislature of a State may levy a tax in respect of professions, trades, callings, or employments but the total amount payable in respect of any one person by way of such tax shall not exceed Rs 250 per annum.