

bales a day but the off-take is not more than 13,000 bales. In anticipation of further decline in prices, the jute mills and their agents are slowing down their rate of purchases. It is, therefore, urgently necessary, if the farmers are to be saved, the JCI should start its operations without further delay and should buy adequate supplies of fibre to build a buffer stock. I urge upon the Government to give necessary directions to the Jute Corporation of India accordingly.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to set up some industrial units in Vidarbha for overall development of the area.

MR. VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker Sir, Vidarbha which was once the centre of activities of Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave and from where the Independence struggle had gained momentum after 1920, remains neglected today. Prior to 1956, when the States were formed on linguistic basis, Nagpur was the state capital. The first Prime Minister of the country, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had said that he was happy to be in Vidarbha and Nagpur and its importance would never be allowed to be diminished. But it is sad that when Pt. Nehru is no more, its importance is being eroded. Many offices are being shifted from Nagpur to other places. Whenever there is a cut in say, Railways or Civil Aviation facilities the capital of Vidarbha i.e. Nagpur suffers on that account. The situation today is that no adequate means of irrigation, no roads, no bridges, no industries and no proper means of communication are available in Vidarbha.

There is abundance of cement, coal, minerals, and forest resources in Vidarbha and they are exported to other states also. Vidarbha is second to Bihar in the matter of coal, but there is no big industry in that area. The centre had proposed to set up a railway coach factory in this area but it was later shifted to Punjab. We welcome it but we demand that steel, gas and forest based industries be set up there so that unemployment may be removed and unnecessary expenditure on the transportation of raw material avoided.

The gas of Bombay High is being sent to Sawai Madhopur, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh but Vidarbha has been ignored in this respect also. Not much expenditure will be incurred in laying pipeline up to Vidarbha and gas-based Petro-Chemical industries can also be set up there.

I would, therefore, request the Government to make legal or some other provision to ensure that the importance of Vidarbha is not reduced, and it gradually increases.

- (v) Need to take steps to check the pollution of underground water as well as Ganga water in Bilhaur Tehsil, Kanpur, U. P.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, only 39 tube-wells are available for irrigation in Bilhaur tehsil of district Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Out of them, 8 tube-wells have been declared unsuccessful due to salinity of water in them, which is suspected in the remaining tube-wells as well. As such, there is uncertainty of underground-water in the area. Had the technical advice of the geologists of the State Ground Water Board been taken in this regard, these tube-wells would not have failed.

12.14 hrs

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

Iron, Aluminium and Silica content in the ground water of this region is very high and as a result, the discharges from these tube-wells fluctuate. Not only this, the pipes installed in these tube-wells, corrode with the passage of time and ultimately the tube-wells fail. Similarly in about 20 other districts having saline water, tube-wells are being installed by various departments without any scientific basis.

It would, therefore, be in public interest to have a detailed discussion in the House on the increasing pollution of the groundwater. Directives to U. P. Government should also be given to announce a definite policy with regard to pollution in Ganga and to stop pollution of ground water.