

problem to the people of the city.

If an overbridge is constructed on one of the railway crossings, it will be quite helpful in alleviating the problem for the present. This can be constructed on Rani Bazar railway crossing. This crossing is near the hospital and half of the population of the city goes to the hospital through this crossing. Many patients have died at this very railway crossing. Therefore, keeping in view the human aspect, it has become imperative to construct this overbridge. The people of Bikaner city are being incited on account of this problem. Therefore, this problem has to be solved immediately.

[English]

- (vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the flood affected people of Punjab particularly Faridkot District

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Sir, as in the previous year, a sizeable part of the country has been badly affected by drought and floods. A delegation of some MLAs from Assam has recently been to Delhi in connection with the floods in Brahmaputra river and discussed with central leaders the grave situation arising out of this. To my satisfaction, the central Government have given them the fullest cooperation to tide over the problem. In my State, Punjab, lakhs of people are in great trouble due to floods. In Faridkot District alone, people in 200 villages have been affected by Floods. Crops in 80,000 acres worth Rs. 28 crores have been completely ruined. 5,747 houses collapsed due to incessant rains. In Muktesar Sub Division, cotton crops with a value of Rs. 20 crores have been destroyed. The farmers of this area are not in any way, in a position to bear this heavy loss. Now-a-days, agriculture has ceased to be a profitable profession. In such worst circumstances, this heavy loss will hit the very backbone of the poor farmers. So I appeal to the government to render immediate financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 25 crores to the affected farmers, so that they may have a sign of relief.

- (viii) Need to adopt necessary measures to improve the living conditions of Beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Tirupati.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : The living conditions of the Beedi workers of Andhra Pradesh, specially in Tirupati Parliamentary constituency, which cover Kawetinagaram, Satyavedu, Sri Kalahasi, Sullunpet, Vengatagir Nagaram continue to be rather distressing and sad. The wages are very low for men and even lower for women and children. Long hours of working, occupational health hazards, lack of schooling, lack of health care, lack of housing have brought near havoc in the lives of the beedi workers and their families. In keeping with the liberal policies or programmes of the Government, immediate steps are called for to ensure some concrete improvements in the quality of life of these unfortunate victims of our society.

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14.48 hrs.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CESS BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now take up Item No. 12 in the Agenda.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : On behalf of Shri Vishwanatha Pratap Singh, I beg to move :

“That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on all payments made for the import of technology for the purposes of encouraging the commercial application of indigenously developed technology and for adapting imported technology to wider domestic application and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”