

schemes has not been received from the Government.

This year Rajasthan specially Bikaner District has been affected by drought conditions. If these lift irrigation schemes are implemented in this area, the menace of drought can be eliminated for ever. The first lift of the Gajner lift irrigation canal will be 60 ft. This will provide irrigation facilities to nearly 2 lakh acres of land drinking water to villages. Out of all the lift irrigation schemes formulated till today, the Gajner lift irrigation will be most viable scheme. Hence, I would like to request the Government of India to accord the necessary approval to the scheme as soon as possible.

- (iii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to meet the situation caused by drought in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : This year the whole country is affected by drought. The whole of Uttar Pradesh is also in its grip. In this state the district of Muzaffarnagar has been given some relief in lump sum to tackle the drought situation. In this context I would like to point out to the Government that even after releasing of funds the farmers of my area are very distressed. On touring the majority of my villages I found that no drought-relief has been provided in my area. Canals and wells have dried up. At many places water has not been released into small canals till now. Old tubewells have not been repaired. In my area sugarcane centres are also at very far off places. I request the Government to kindly ensure that relief is provided to my area at the earliest.

- (iv) Need to declare Rajasthan State Highway No. 17 as a National Highway.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : In Rajasthan the city of Kota is situated on the Jabalpur-Jaipur National Highway No. 12. The State highway No. 17 connects the city of Kota with Shivpuri. Shivpuri is also situated on Delhi-Agra-Bombay National Highway No. 3. In

this way if State Highway No. 17 is upgraded then many big, small and medium cities as well as people living in villages of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will be greatly benefited. Keeping in mind the heavy traffic and movement of industrial products and foodgrain among big cities like Kota-Gwalior; Kanpur-Agra-Lucknow, Ujjain-Indore-Bhopal, Jaipur etc. The Rajasthan State Highway No. 17 should be upgraded by the Government.

- (v) Need to open LPG agencies in Gonda and other Tehsil Headquarters Gonda District.

SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN (Balrampur) : Even 40 years after independence there is a district called Gonda in Uttar Pradesh where there is no facility for the supply of L.P.G. (Cooking Gas). Advertisements are given, even people are selected, yet Gonda has not been given an agency. Fuel resources are very scarce there. Felling of trees in forests has been restricted. In the situation, the L.P.G., the use of which is wide spread today, should be provided not only in Gonda district headquarters but also in 5 Tehsil headquarters like Tulsipur, Utraula, Mankapur, Karnailganj and Tarabganj. This is an old demand of the masses which should be attended to and met by the Government.

[English]

- (vi) Need to provide drilling rigs for providing drinking water in drought affected districts of Bhind and Datia in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind) : I would like to draw the attention of the government and the House to the acute requirement of fast and deep drilling rigs for providing drinking water in the drought affected State of Madhya Pradesh particularly in Bhind and Datia Districts.

The hard stone structure in this area is such that ordinary drilling rigs are not successful. A very few fast and deep drilling rigs are available with the Government of Madhya Pradesh which are negligible in view of the actual requirement. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to provide more