

I would like to submit to the Central Government that they should take urgent effective steps to solve this serious problem so that there could be some relief during the coming summer season.

(ii) Demand for early clearance to Sidhmukh and Nohar Canal Projects in Rajasthan.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sidhmukh Nohar Canal is an important Canal of Rajasthan State, which would irrigate nearly eight lakh acres of land in Bhadra and Nohar Tehsils of District Ganganagar and Rajgarh and Tara Nagar Tehsils of District Churu.

After the survey of both these Canals, papers have been submitted to the Central Water Commission. The Central Water Commission has been engaged in the clearance of the canal projects for quite a long time.

I would, therefore, request the Irrigation Department of the Central Government to grant approval to Sidhmukh and Nohar Canal Projects so that the concerned farmers may get the benefit thereby and remove their backwardness and poverty and also increase the national production.

(iii) Demand for taking urgent steps to meet the shortage of drinking water in the rural and urban areas of Ajmer

SHRI VISHNU MODI (Ajmer) : Under rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the House towards acute shortage of drinking water in my Parliamentary constituency Ajmer and in the urban and rural areas of Rajasthan.

As is well known, Rajasthan has been facing serious condition of famine for the last many years, but the famine condition this year is so serious that it has created a deep feeling of insecurity of livelihood among the common man of Rajasthan.

In the urban areas in District Ajmer comprising Ajmer city, Kishangarh, Beawar and Vijay Nagar, in which more than 15 lakh people live, water is supplied for a duration of 2 hours only and that too once in two days.

In the rural areas of Ajmer, the condition of drinking water supply is still worse. The villagers of this area are running from pillar to post in search of fodder and water for their livestock and their crops. As no famine relief works have been started and in the absence of any alternative, the villagers are migrating to other States.

The officials say that due to scanty rains this year, the water level in the ponds is very low, which is likely to pose a very serious problem in the coming summer season. Secondly, the sources which supply drinking water are adversely affected due to interruption in power supply which also affects the drinking water supply.

I would, therefore, like to submit to the Hon. Agriculture Minister that keeping in view the acute shortage of drinking water in the urban and rural areas of Ajmer, urgent steps should be taken to solve the problem.

12.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(iv) Demand for retention of the administrative control of Tagore Hospital in Kondagaon District Bastar (M.P.) by the Centre

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : A very large area of Tehsil Kondagaon and Narainpur in District Bastar has been selected for the rehabilitation of refugees from Bangladesh. As the current Plan period is coming to an end, this project is being transferred to the State Government. Under this project, Tagore Hospital has been established in Kondagaon which has become very popular among the tribals. The tribals have benefited by the services provided by this Hospital. This hospital should not be handed over to the State Government. This is the demand of the tribals and they want that this hospital should be run by the Central Government as in the past and it should be a gift to the tribals of the area, who have made a significant contribution by willingly agreeing to allot their land for the rehabilitation of the refugees.

A delegation from Bastar had met the former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi in Delhi and had requested that this Hospital should be run by the Central Government. The former Prime Minister had