

(v) **Demand for preserving the ecological balance in the Western Ghats**

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : Sir, the Western Ghats cover an area of approximately 51585 sq. miles spreading over five States geographically situated along the western peninsular side of the country, acting as a buffer for rainfall in the area which is about 520 cms. Due to this, the rain forests with rich flora and fauna are very few.

Due to indiscriminate encroachment and ill-conceived industrial growth this forest and its inhabitants are fast facing extinction. Dr. P. W. Richards, a British botanist has said that if proper care to safeguard these rain forests is not taken, they will all perish in another 30-40 years.

Hydroelectric projects, agricultural and industrial activities and mining work have all been responsible for destruction of the forests, hydroelectric projects being the biggest culprit of them all. Unlike those feeder rivers and streams which get their water from the melting snows of the Himalayas, the rivers and streams from the Western Ghats depend on the rain water which is again dependent on the rain forests. With the destruction of these forests rainfall is dropping rapidly and soil erosion has started causing silting. This in turn has affected the efficiency of the hydroelectrical projects. The Kali hydroelectric project is an excellent example of inefficiency due to silting. The Sharavathi project is another example where even with enough rain due to ecological balances the project is running at loss. I hope, the Government takes a serious view of the matter.

[*Translation*]

(vi) **Need to direct the Rajasthan Government to stop recovery of dues from the Indira Gandhi Canal Project Area**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a question of urgent public importance in the House.

The construction of Indira Gandhi Canal Project is being undertaken with the

special cooperation and assistance of the Central Government. The water courses have been brick-lined. Besides the estimated expenditure, the administrative expenditure, interest and compound interest work out to be 5 to 6 times the original allocation. The land for the construction of small drains has been acquired from the farmers. These drains have increased the irrigation capacity because of which the State Government will get more revenue. Why should the State Government then charge more from the farmers? The State Government should itself bear the whole expenditure.

There have been several other bunglings in the construction of brick-lined drains for which the farmers are being made to pay. The banks are issuing attachment notices to the farmers. There is great unrest among the farmers because they are being made to pay for the bunglings of the Department. I had also apprised the House of the facts in this regard during the last session. The neighbouring States of Punjab and Haryana have waived the loans of their farmers granted for bricklined water courses. The Rajasthan Government should also be asked to waive the loans. I would request the Central Government to issue immediate instructions to the Rajasthan Government to stop the realisation immediately, so as to provide relief to the farmers. Necessary orders should be issued to the Rajasthan Government to take appropriate action to solve the problems of the farmers.

[*English*]

(vii) **Demand for measures for rapid industrialisation of Kerala**

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : Kerala is a state where Central investment is below the national average. This has held back the development of the state and pushed up unemployment. Kerala is one of the very few States which earn a lot of foreign exchange for the country. A major share of foreign remittances comes from the workers of Kerala who are contributing to the prosperity of the country by their hard work in the Gulf countries. Yet the state has not got its due share of central investment in the industrial sector.

Many proposals for new industries were submitted to the Centre from time to time. But so far nothing has been done.

Therefore, I would request the Government to prepare a plan for the rapid industrialisation of Kerala and make adequate financial provision in the next year's budget.

- (viii) Demand for a high-powered Committee to study the economic crisis in the film industry and to advise for reduction of taxes and curbing of video piracy

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West): Indian Film Industry, the world's largest producer of motion pictures, is fighting a losing battle for its survival today. This crisis has been brought about by a number of factors, most notably, the high incidence of taxation, both at the Centre and in the States. The onslaught of TV and rampant video piracy have caused irreparable damage to Cinema. Uncertified, objectionable and undesirable films through video continue to be exhibited clandestinely all over the country undermining the cultural and social framework.

The 31 day strike of the film industry in Maharashtra—with 1200 cinema houses closed down, dozens of studios and laboratories shut out, three lakh daily wage earners out of work—stands as a test case before us to prove how badly the film industry is affected with unimaginative taxes on Central and State levels. The strike is now called off, but how serious is the Maharashtra government in their attitude to rescue the film industry is still to be seen. The entire film industry of India is looking forward to the outcome of the Maharashtra Government's deliberations. I have a fear, that if no proper solution is found by 15th of December, film industry will be forced to close down again, not only in Maharashtra, but in all other States, rendering 25 lakh people jobless and causing a considerable dent in the government revenue and sounding the death knell for Indian film industry. This is a forewarning to the House and the Government. Therefore, it is imperative that the manifold crisis of the film industry needs to be discussed at length in the House.

And this is my submission to the House and Centre that a very high powered Committee should be constituted consisting of prominent people of the film industry, the government, economists and people from Culture, to conduct a deep study of the film industry's economic crisis and to advise the governments at the Centre and the States to reduce taxes and also to curb effectively video piracy so that the Indian film industry survives.

- (ix) Demand for measures to improve the conditions prevailing in Ranchi Mental Asylum

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the inhuman conditions prevailing in the Ranchi Mental Asylum present a very painful picture of the plight of the mentally ill inmates. Every third day a patient dies because of starvation. Governments of six States *viz.*, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram, each having a share of beds in the hospital are supposed to contribute proportionately towards the expenses. It is most unfortunate that these six States cannot even provide food to the dying patients. From 1970 to 1980 an average of 82 patients died of malnutrition. Between 1981 and 1985 there have been 188 deaths each year and during the first half of this year there were 74 deaths. Whereas the living allowance of the staff has increased manifold, the patients maintenance cost remains unchanged. With an annual budget of Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 70 lakh is spent on establishment leaving only 30 per cent for the patients' medicines, food, clothing and maintenance of the asylum. The asylum faces acute crisis of drinking water; toilets are choked and broken, fans are not working; fused bulbs and tubes are not replaced and there are rusted and broken iron cots which were provided in 1925. Ironically, the patients are examined by a former patient of the asylum. There is rampant corruption among the staff in admitting patients.

The patients who require more humane treatment to bring them to sanity are starving to death. I would, through this august House, urge upon the Government