

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to sanction sugar factories in Cooperative sector in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garchirole districts of Vidarbha in Maharashtra.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Vidarbha is a very backward region of Maharashtra. Although the farmers are hardworking, yet their economic condition is pitiable. The farmers of Western Maharashtra are comparatively well off. This is mainly because of the development of Sugar mills in these areas. Whereas in Western Maharashtra there are at least 10 mills run on cooperative basis, in every district, there is not even one such mill on an average in the Vidarbha region.

In 1982, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who was then the Prime Minister, had assured a delegation of Members of Parliament from Vidarbha, that permission would be given for the setting up of at least two sugar factories in every district of this region. But this promise is not being fulfilled due to the proposed new Sugar policy. Every farmer of Vidarbha is anxious for the establishment of such sugar mills and he is even prepared to become a shareholder. It is also with the same hope that he has undertaken the work of sugarcane plantation in a big way. But due to the delay in the issue of licenses, these poor and hardworking farmers have to suffer great losses.

In order to remove the backwardness of Vidarbha region and to provide relief to the farmers, it is essential to set up sugar mills in the cooperative sector. In view of this situation, I would request the Minister of Civil Supplies to immediately accept the demand for the establishment of at least two sugar mills on an average in the districts of Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garchirole on a cooperative basis. Besides, other proposals which are pending with the Centre must also be cleared.

[English]

- (v) Demand for a tribunal to resolve the dispute regarding distribution of Cauvery waters.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South) : Sir, water as one

of the five constituents (*Pancha Bhootha*) of all the living beings holds immense importance. In our country, perhaps for this reason, several rivers like Ganga and Cauvery have been given the status of the mother. But, this importance has so far been not accorded in our Constitution. The entries in the List (Central List—Item 56) and List II (State List—Item 17) of the VII Schedule of the Constitution do not lay it emphatically. There are thus conflicts and clashes on the river water disputes between various States.

One of such disputed issues is sharing of the Cauvery water between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry. The Cauvery Basin constitutes 40 per cent of the total irrigated area in Tamil Nadu and contributes 25 per cent of the rice production in the State.

However, in view of the construction of three reservoirs across the major tributaries by the Karnataka State, without prior concurrence, has reduced the availability of water to Tamil Nadu almost to a negligible degree. The agriculture operations in the Cauvery Delta have not commenced till date and more than five lakhs of agricultural labourers are without work, facing starvation, while the economy of Thanjavur and Trichy districts is on virtual collapse. There is impending threat of an agitation from the farmers.

I, therefore, request the Government to please immediately constitute a Tribunal to decide the whole issue and also initiate action to nationalise the river water in the country for bringing them under a Central Agency.

- (vi) Demand for provision of a sum of rupees fifty Crores per annum by central Government for repairs and reconstruction of old buildings in Bombay.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Byculla, Parel, Nagapada, Worli are Central Areas of city of Bombay and about twenty lakh residents of Bombay are staying in 18,000 old and dilapidated buildings. Majority of them are textile workers, Government servants, poor and middle class working people. All these