

taken for deepending the dug wells and for transporation of water to the far flung areas. Since the problem is acute, it is imperative that the pace of work to meet the drinking water problem is accelerated so that timely relief can be provided.

A minimum of Rs. 13 crores is required to undertake works pertaining to drinking water supply in the rural and the urban areas of the State. I request the concerned Minister to provide the amount mentioned above to save the State from drinking water problem. Adequate funds should be provided for the completion of all the ongoing water supply schemes in the State as soon as possible.

- (iv) **Need to make the Himsagar Express a bi-Weekly Train and to Provide its Stoppages at Important Stations in the Districts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitte and Alleppey**

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (IDUKKI) : Sir, the Him Sagar Express running between Jammu and Kanyakumari was introduced in response to the demand of the public that there should be a train connecting the northern and the southern ends of India. Although it is a weekly train at present, it has become very useful particularly for the Keralites working in the Defence service and stationed in Punjab, Jammu etc.

However, the usefulness of this train has been diminished by the limited stoppages it has at present in Kerala. After Ernakulam, it halts only at Quilon and thus skips three important districts namely Kottayam, Pathanamthitte and Alleppey. It may be mentioned in this context that the maximum number of passengers are from these districts. Thus this long-awaited train has become less useful to people belonging to these districts. From the point of view of revenue to the Railways as well as that of the convenience of passengers, this train must halt at important stations in all the three districts.

And also in view of the heavy rush in this train, it may be made at least a bi-weekly train with a pantry car with

catering facilities which at present are not provided with this train. Therefore, I would request the Government to issue necessary instructions in this regard.

[Translation]

- (v) **Need to remove the limit of Rs. 1600/-for payment of bonus to employees**

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (BHOPAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the bonus payable to an employee, whose monthly pay or wage is more than Rs. 750, is calculated as if his monthly pay or wage is Rs. 750. Government propose to raise this limit to Rs. 1600 per month.

However, according to the Payment of Bonus Act, the range for eligibility for bonus is Rs. 1600 per month whereas the cost of living as compared to 1965 has increased phenomenally and the value of the rupee has diminished. I, therefore, urge that to meet out justice to all the employees, the eligibility range of Rs. 1600 should be removed to make all the employees eligible for bonus.

- (vi) **Demand to give employment to the unemployed residents of district Gonda (Eastern U.P.) in the I.T.I. set up there**

SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN (BAL-RAMPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, district Gonda is the most backward area in Eastern U.P. The economic condition of the people of this area is so miserable that they are finding it very difficult to bring up their families. Thousands of people here are jobless with the result that this region is becoming more and more backward. Keeping in view its backwardness, the Government decided to set up an I.T.I. factory at Manakpur in Gonda District. This factory is now nearing completion but the people of Gonda have not been benefited by this factory so far. Outsiders have been recruited in this factory and the people of Gonda District have got nothing but displacement. It is the policy of the Government not only to compensate the displaced

persons whose houses and lands have been acquired but also to provide employment to the displaced persons or at least one member each of the displaced families in the factory. But in this case, the displaced persons have not been benefited in the matter of recruitment in the factory, so much so that out of the total recruitment made, only 20 per cent people belong to the Gonda District.

I, therefore, draw the attention of the Minister of Communications towards giving priority to the people of Gonda in the matter of service and demand that in future only the people of Gonda should be recruited in the factory so that the objective of the factory is achieved.

(vii) Need to take steps for the proper functioning of Kolar Gold Mines to avoid its closure

DR. V. VENKATESH (KOLAR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the gold mines located in Kolar Gold Fields have been incurring losses for the last several years. The gold mines which are among the deepest in the world are incurring losses due to improper management and the purchase of gold by the Government of India at a throw-away Price. The huge losses of the mined are going to result in the closure of these mines. These mines are operated and owned by a public sector undertaking, Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML). Nearly a lakh of workers earn their livelihood by working these mines. The closure of these mines will throw all of them out of employment. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the working of the management as well as the mining activities in these mines. The Policy of the Government of India is to safeguard the interests of the working class at any cost. Therefore, the proper functioning of these mines needs an urgent attention of the Government. The Kolar Gold Mines should be modernised and all basic amenities that are needed should be provided immediately.

Adequate steps should be taken to procure more quantity of gold from

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

BGML. The existing prices paid for the gold should be revised so that the BGML does not incur losses on that account. I request the hon. Minister to take urgent steps in this regard and save the mines from sickness and closure.

12.26 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1985-86—Cont d.

[English]

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on demand Nos. 1 to 8 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for which 8 hours have been allotted.

Hon. members Present in the House whose cut motions to the demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion be moved

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st days of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 8 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development."