

[Shri Mullappally Ramachandran]

martial arts like *Kalaripayattu* will definitely be fascinating to the tourists.

The best Ayurvedic treatment in the country is available in north Kerala and the prominence that this method of treatment has in today's world should, no doubt, offer an attraction to tourists from outside.

Despite the above, it is sad to note that tourism has not even taken shape in this area. It is high time that the Ministry come forward to develop tourism in this part of Kerala.

(iii) Need to set up industrial units in Madhubani district of Bihar to provide gainful employment to the local people.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : District Madhubani, a part of Mathila region of north Bihar, is very backward industrially. Although raw material such as mango, vegetables, sugar cane, jute, rice paddy straw, paddy husk and other agricultural produce is available there in abundance, yet in this area no industry has been set up so far.

Formerly a couple of sugar factories were set up there but the same have remained closed for a number of years. As a result, a large number of local labour go elsewhere in search of jobs.

Delicious mangoes are available here at a throw-away price. As such, a mango based industry can be set up by the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry which can give employment to a large number of people.

Other industries can also be set up based on the raw materials mentioned above.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India to set up industrial units in Madhubani district as soon as possible so that the local people could be provided with gainful employment.

(iv) Need for arranging adequate supplies of coal to industries and small scale units in Orissa.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI (Bhadrak) : There is an acute shortage of Gr. A and B coal needed for industrial consumption in the State of Orissa. The total daily requirement of Grade A and B coal is of the order of 82 wagons, which works out to about 2500 wagons per month. This requirement is supposed to be met by the Talcher Collieries of the Coal India Ltd. whose daily production of Grade A and B coal is about 45 wagons or about 1500-1600 wagons per month at the most. As a result, most of the industries in the State have been forced to drastically cut down production resulting in idle capacity. Some have faced closure and more particularly two major units such as the Orissa Textile Mills at Titagarh, Paper Mill at Choudwar are worst affected. Industrial production has also greatly suffered in the process. It is high time that arrangements to mitigate the position are made.

New SSI units set up in Orissa are also facing the problem of getting their requirement of hard coke from the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. which is also a subsidiary of the Coal India Ltd. The Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. has not been able to make arrangements for supply of hard coke on regular basis to the new unit, but prefers working out arrangements on month to month basis, which makes for an element of uncertainty and also may leave voids in the arrangements of month to month basis to the handicap and periodical deprivation of the new SSI units. It is necessary that supply of hard coke to new SSI units on a regular basis should be made. Therefore, I request the Government of India to take immediate and effective steps to save the Small Scale Industrial Units from crisis.

(v) Demand for diverting a few ships from Cochin, Mangalore and Tuticorin Ports to Calicut/Bey pore Port to provide employment to idle workers at the latter port.

DR. K.G. ADIYODI (Calicut) : The Calicut/Bey pore port is one of the oldest ports in the country. Recently, some steps

were taken to improve this port especially clearing of the silt, etc.

The port is now ready to handle some ships whereas it is learnt that the ships are in queue to find a berth in Cochin, Mangalore and Tuticorin Ports. To provide employment to idle workers, it is requested to divert a few ships to the Calicut/Beyport Port without delay.

[Translation]

(vi) Demand for financial assistance of Rs. 500 crores to Rajasthan Government to enable it to meet the acute drought there.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year the whole of Rajasthan is facing terrible famine situation due to inadequate and uncertain rains. Such famine did not take place in the last seven decades. This famine is the fourth during the last five years.

In all the districts of Rajasthan, out of 33,000 villages about 28,000 villages, having a population of 2 crores to 3 crores, and also the cattle have been affected by the acute famine.

The state Government had requested for Rs. 580 crores from the Central Government to meet the situation created by famine. The break-up of this sum was—Rs. 350 crores for relief works, Rs. 50 crores for protection of cattle wealth, Rs. 20 crores nutrition programme and Rs. 10 crores for tools, drinking water, rigs and tankers. But only Rs. 71 crores have so far been sanctioned mostly as Plan advance which is quite inadequate.

Since the relief work has been inadequate due to limited resources of the state, there has been a state of starvation at many places. There is acute shortage of drinking water in the desert areas of Rajasthan and this critical period extends from March to the 15th of July. If more people are not given employment, they may fall victim to a number of diseases and die as a result thereof. Thousands of cattle

heads will perish if adequate fodder is not arranged for them.

The Seventh and the Eighth Finance Commission had recommended that the Central Government should provide cent per cent grant to the States in such unusual circumstances. I, therefore, strongly appeal to the Central Government to exercise special powers and provide Rs. 500 crores as special assistance to the state Government to enable them to tackle the famine situation effectively.

(vii) Need to take urgent steps for timely completion of big projects in order to obviate escalation in cost.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the delay in the completion of 23 major Projects pertaining to power, coal, steel, cement, Railway, atomic energy, the costs thereof have increased two times and one and a half times. A major portion of public money is invested in the power projects and a power project is completed in 10 to 11 years and an irrigation project take as many as 20 years for completion. Some of the important projects whose costs have doubled are two super thermal power stations at Ramagundum, Fervande Project, Bokaro thermal station, salal project, Dulhasti and Vishakhapatnam refinery expansion projects, Mundhi, Bina and Rajmolu coal projects and Namvelli second power project. The main cause of this delay is centralisation of important decisions. The managers are given powers but this situation is not likely to improve without making them answerable. But the bureaucracy does not want to share its powers and the political leadership also sides with them. It is the Government employees who are responsible for escalation in the original costs of 23 public projects. For example, the Nathpa Zhakhari Project is pending for the last 12 years. Its estimated cost has increased manifold. When the project was drawn in 1974, the estimated cost thereof was Rs. 254 crores and in 1986 its cost was estimated at Rs. 1400 crores. But so far the project is only on the drawing board or in the files.

The Government have created a Ministry of Programme Implementation.