

flowers in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh where unimaginable species of flowers used to blossom every year during the month of August are not flowering now. The local forest officers and environmentalists are of the opinion that it happened because this area was brought under Nanda Devi Biosphere and grazing by sheep and goats was banned with the result that quick growing alpine grass covered the area and completely marred the growth of flower plants. I would, therefore, request the Forest and Environment Ministry to conduct a study on the above and take urgent steps in this regard and save the extinction of rare species of flowers in the world-renowned valley which is a tourist paradise and a wonderful study place for the botanists.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to direct Rajasthan Government to stop recovery of amount spent on projects by Government from farmers served by the Indira Gandhi Canal Project.**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the construction work of Indira Gandhi Canal Project is being carried out with the special cooperation and assistance of the Central Government. Pucca Water Courses have been built in this project area. Apart from the estimated expenditure, the other expenses including the administrative expenditure, interest and compound interest have been added 5 to 6 times more than the principal amount.

The drains were constructed on the land of the farmer. Due to construction of these drains, the irrigational potential has increased and it will fetch more revenue in the form of water cess for the Government of Rajasthan. Then why the cost is being charged from the farmers? The State Government should bear this expenditure.

As and when any such project is constructed, the Government bears all its expenses and the farmer gets water from

the project. Irrigation cess is charged on the basis of crop, the recovery percentage of which is from 10 to 100 in Ganganagar district. But the farmers are getting more water after pucca drains have been constructed. The intensity which was estimated to be 62 per cent earlier has increased by more than 15 per cent. The farmer is paying irrigation cess at the same rate for the increased irrigated area. Earlier, when drains were not pucca, more money used to be spent and less crops produced. The farmer had to pay irrigation cess for nothing.

There is no objection if irrigation cess is collected from the farmer if more area of land is brought under irrigation on less expenses. But it is not justifiable to charge original cost from the farmer for this purpose. In a way, it is a double expenditure. It is the Government who will benefit with the increase in its irrigation capacity, but to collect the expenses of the project from the farmer is not at all justifiable under any principle. As has been done by Punjab and Haryana Governments, the Government of Rajasthan should also write off the cost incurred on drains. I have been bringing it to the notice of the House in every session since the last seven and a half years. The Government has taken a decision recently that drains will be constructed at Government expenses in phase-II of Indira Gandhi Canal. Besides a decision has already been taken to construct drains at Government expenses in Mahi Project Banswada. The Central Government has already decided that the Government will construct drains up to 6 hectares only. Therefore, it is not justifiable to collect the cost of drains from the farmers under Phase-I on a uniform pattern.

Therefore, keeping in view the importance of this issue, I would like to request the Central Government to instruct the State Government of Rajasthan to solve their problems without delay.

[English]

**Demand for increasing the quota of heavy cement for Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Government of India have reduced

[Shri Shriballav Panigrahi]

the quarterly allocation of levy cement for Orissa from 67,800 MT to 42,900 MT from quarter III/86 to quarter III/87 in a phased manner. The requirement of cement during each quarter is 2.5 lakhs MT in the State of Orissa. For the current quarter (July-September 1987), State Government have received 42,900 MT levy cement from Government of India. This is quite inadequate in as much as the quarterly requirement of Housing and Urban Development Department alone is about 50,000 MT.

It is therefore requested that the State quarterly quota of cement for Orissa be enhanced to one lakh MT minimum.

**(vi) Need to develop some places in Kerala as tourist reports**

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram): The policy of the Central Government is to develop new tourist centres in different parts of the country is welcome. Kerala, as is well known, has a lot of tourist potential. But only a few places have been developed so far as tourist centres. There are a large number of places in the State which, if developed, could attract foreign as well as domestic tourists. For example, Guruvayoor is a famous pilgrim centre which is visited by lakhs of people every year. If the Union Government take some interest in developing it as a major centre of pilgrimage and also tourism, the number of tourists will go up phenomenally. Similarly, Kodungallur where the ancient history of Kerala was enacted, is an important place which could be developed as a major tourist centre.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India that Central investment may be made to develop these and similar places in Kerala as tourist centres.

**(vii) Need to direct Indian Banks Association to invite Bank Employees Federation of India for negotiations for revision of wages**

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):

The Bank Employees Federation of India submitted a charter of demands to Indian Banks Association on June 5, 1987 for revision of wages and service conditions of bank employees consequent on expiry of last settlement on June 30, 1987. The Bank Employees Federation of India represents more than one lakh membership all over the country. The Indian Banks Association had invited some trade unions of Bank employees for negotiations from July 24, 1987 but the Bank Employees Federation of India has been ignored, without assigning any reason. By not responding to the charter of demands of BEFI, Indian Banks Association has created a position that the Bank employees owing allegiance to BEFI have no other option but to adopt a path of agitation, a notice for which has already been served on the appropriate authorities, and they have decided to go on one day's strike on September 2, 1987. A situation of perpetual unrest, in banking industry, is being foisted upon bank employees by the Indian Banks Association. The Government of India being the owners of over 90% of the banking industry, has a direct responsibility to the people of this country to see that the banking functions are not disrupted.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to direct the Indian Banks Association to invite Bank Employees Federation of India for negotiations. Similar directions were issued earlier also in the case of Coal, Steel and various other public sector industries.

**(viii) Need to set up Industries in Phulbani district of Orissa**

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Phulbani is one of the backward districts of Orissa. It is also one of the industrially backward districts in India. The Government of India had declared 82 districts all over the country as 'No Industry Districts', and Phulbani is one of them.

It is now five years since Phulbani was declared as a no-industry district, but no steps have been taken to set up an indus-