

I, therefore, request the Government to consider this matter seriously and declare the said district as a backward district without any further delay so that an atmosphere of industrialisation is created there. A big unit in the public sector should be set up there to ensure development of this district.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to complete the on-going power projects and to take up new projects during the 7th plan period to meet the increasing demand for power in the country**

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Accordig to the 12th load svruey of the Central Electricity Authority the total requirement of power in India at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan will be of the order of 15103 MU, of which the utilities will be required to provide 10552 MU and the captive units are expected to provide 4551 MU. Therefore, it is imperative that not only the on-going power projects should be completed during the Seventh Plan but new projects must be taken up during the Seventh Plan so as to meet the shortage of power partly during the Seventh Plan and also to facilitate adequate availability of power at the beginning of the Eighth Plan.

The first priority may be given to completion of on-going projects. For example in Orissa the projects namely Rengali, Hirakud 7th Unit, Upper Kolab and Indravati Project should be completed as early as possible.

The next priority may be given to expansion projects of which Rengali Stage-II will receive the highest priority as this will facilitate generation of above 400 MU of additional power during the rainy season.

In order to meet the unprecedented growth of power demand the Ib Valley Project should be urgently taken up by NTPC instead of being in the State sector during this Plan.

Thus the need of additional power generation can be met only by completing on-going projects and taking up projects during the Seventh Plan.

- (iv) **Need to approve the Bombay Urban Transport Project Phase II urgently to and obtain sanction of the World Bank**

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP (Thane) : The population of Bombay and adjacent areas is near about one crores. Problems of road transport, rail transport, water transport and pedestrians have created a complicated situation in Bombay. BMRDA has prepared the Bombay Urban Transport Project Phase II the estimated cost of which is Rs. 525.66 crores. The Project has been informally discussed with the World Bank representative also. The Government of Maharashtra has recommended to the Ministry of finance, on 28th May, 1985 that the project be approved for being sent to the World Bank for assistance.

It is the urgent need of the Bombay and BMRDA area and the Government of India shouls look into it urgently and obtain sanction of the Word Bank as early as possible.

- (v) **Need to provide adequate medical and financial asisstance to Uttar Pradesh for checking the spread of encephalitis epidemic in eastern districts**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN (Etah) : The State of Uttar Pradesh is in the grip of encephalitis epidemic, a dreaded viral disease which has claimed several hundred lives in the eastern districts of Deoria, Gorakhpur, Basti and Gonda. Cases have been reported from other districts also including the State Capital.

Out of the 411 seizures in 315 villages in Deoria district and 272 seizures in 228 villages in Gorakhpur district, 145 people in Deoria and 76 in Gorakhpur have died. In these two districts the disease has been taking a heavy toll for the past some years. A large number of cases have been detected by a team of medicos in Paharpur, Chatameel, Nagwamaun, Hajipur, Unnao and Anwari villages. The inhabitants who are subsisting on raw water weeds, fungus and sewage mixed water from flooded wells are not in a position to go to the city. The disease has mostly affected children between the age of 6 and 12 years.

This is a human problem. I would urge the Government to give its urgent attention to the problem and to provide adequate medical and financial assistance to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation and also to control the spread of the epidemic.

12.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (vi) **Financial assistance to Tamil Nadu to meet the heavy losses caused by recent rains and to provide relief to the people**

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : The recent rains lashed Tamil Nadu in November 1985 causing heavy damages to properties and loss of hundreds of human lives. Tanjore and South Arcot are the paddy growing areas and Tanjore is the granary of Tamil Nadu. The paddy crops are submerged in water causing extensive loss to the agriculturists worth crores and crores of rupees. In Tamil Nadu more than 350 tanks were breached and many villages have been washed away. The second big tank in Tamil Nadu, Maduranthakam Tank, suffered a 45 metre breach resulting in the flooding of nearby villages. Maduranthakam has been cut off from adjoining areas due to damages to roads and railway bridges. The total loss is very very heavy because most of the channels and roads have been breached and school buildings, Government buildings were collapsed due to the recent floods.

The people of Tamil Nadu and the Government appreciate the action taken by the Prime Minister of India who also visited the rain affected areas and the assurance that an expert committee would be visiting Tamil Nadu immediately in order to assess the damages. The Tamil Nadu Government is taking every step to provide all relief to the people on a war footing. Government of India is requested to grant an aid of more than Rs. 120 crores.

- (vii) **Need to stop further retrenchment of Indian employees of Chukha Hydel Project, Bhutan and rehabilitate the retrenched employees**

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : About 2700 Indian nationals working in

Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan for the last 6 to 13 years are feeling insecurity of service since the recent abrupt and arbitrary termination of services of 90 employees without prior notice and without providing any compensation. The project was initially started by the CW and PC, Government of India during the period 1973-75 and the entire project was manned by the CW and PC of India. The first batch of employees numbering about 260 were appointed by the said commission. Subsequently an Authority consisting of the representatives of the Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan was constituted and named as Chukha Project Authority to administer the project. The Authority appointed a large number of Indian nationals in various categories of staff. They were deployed to work in a very remote area where there was no communication with any part of the country and they had to undertake arduous nature of works without commensurate and adequate remuneration. They have devoted a substantial part of their life for the successful completion of the project, but now they are being thrown out of employment when there is no opportunity for them to secure alternative employment at this stage.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to consider the plight of these retrenched Indian employees of Chukha Hydel Project and take necessary steps to stop further retrenchment of employees, rehabilitation of retrenched employees in any project in India or Bhutan, review the service conditions of these employees.

- (viii) **Need to amend the Pension Rules by extending the facility of Central Government Pension to all freedom fighters irrespective of the period of imprisonment undergone by them**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : It is noted that several genuine freedom fighters have not been able to obtain Central Government pension mainly because of the strict formalities to be fulfilled and also because the onus of proof lies heavily upon them to prove that they had undergone imprisonment for a minimum period of six months.

It is absolutely unfair to determine a person's eligibility to freedom fighters'