

on the 1st day of July, 1985 and the waters used for consumptive purposes and for the adjudication of the claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Tribunal for the verification of the quantum of usage of water claimed by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan from the Ravi-Beas system as on the 1st day of July, 1985 and the waters used for consumptive purposes and for the adjudication of the claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE : RAVI AND BEAS
WATERS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE,
1986

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal Ordinance, 1986.

15.52 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Demand to raise support prices of all agricultural produce by about 25 per cent.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculturists are facing a lot of hardships due to unremunerative prices for their produce.

Their backbone is broken. Whenever they have to purchase, they have to pay high prices. When they try to sell their produce they have to sell at a very low price. Present rise in prices of products like kerosene, petroleum products and fertilizers has raised the cost of inputs of agriculture to a very high degree. Comparative rise in prices of rice and wheat is nominal. Other agricultural products remain at the same level of prices. Due to the present rise in prices, the agriculturists are crippled economically. The support price given to agricultural produce is very meagre and it does not take into account the risk involved, and the sufferings of the agriculturists who have to work day in and day out. It is high time that the Central Government raises the support prices of all agricultural produce by about 25 per cent and save the agriculturists from economic disaster.

15.53 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM
in the Chair]

(ii) Demand for developing Northern part of Kerala to attract tourist traffic.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the State of Kerala has high tourist potential which has not been tapped at all. This is most obvious in the northern half of Kerala which is absolutely cut off from the tourist map of India.

Kerala, with its long coastal line, numerous rivers and back waters, famous tropical forests such as the Silent Valley, the green hills of Wynad with its rich forest wealth and rare species of animals, the temples and places of historical importance has much to offer to a tourist. However, the birth place of Pazhassi Raja and Kunhali Marakkar who fought against alien powers, the place where the Portuguese sailer Vasco-de-Gama first landed in India, the several forts etc. have all been ignored by the Tourist Departments both at the State level and at the Centre.

It is to be noted that the temple arts of Malabar such as *Theyyam* and *Thira* and

[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