

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

sity in 1944. The article was written in 1941 in Kabul after his escape from India.

The Netaji Research Bureau of which a nephew of Netaji is the Executive Director, had sent the above materials in 1983 to the ICHR to enable it to publish some rare articles of Netaji according to a plan formulated by the ICHR itself during the tenure of its erstwhile Chairman Late Dr. Nihar Ranjan Ray.

In April that year the ICHR replied to the Bureau that it was not possible for them to publish those materials. Several protests against the presumptions refusal were sent to the ICHR by the Bureau. But no satisfactory reply was offered by the ICHR.

This is a very deplorable situation. Netaji Bose is one of the tallest leaders of the freedom movement. What he had written and said during his life time are a valuable treasure. People of this country have every right to have access to these materials. No one can censor Netaji. Hence it is warranted that Central Government take the matter with the ICHR and make the publication possible.

(vii) Central Assistance to Karnataka for Drought-Affected Areas

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Out of 19 districts 17 districts in Karnataka State have been affected by the drought.

Except two talukas in Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu, the drought has affected 17685 villages in 142 talukas. Even two taluks of Utter Kannada were also affected by the scarcity conditions.

The Kolar and Gulbarga Districts are worst affected due to less rain fall since 15 years.

There is very urgent need for making arrangements for drinking water supply and public health measures, supplementary nutrition, veterinary care and fodder supply.

I strongly urge upon the Prime Minister to direct the concerned authorities to send a study team to conduct an on the spot assessment of the extent of drought and also to release Rs. 50 crores as emergency means of advance immediately.

(viii) Steps Needed to Accelerate the Pace of Work on the Upper Prawra Project at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : Sir, I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Irrigation Minister to the problem arising out of the very slow pace of work on the Upper Prawra Project in the district of Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. This is a major irrigation project which was taken in hand in 1976 as a measure of providing relief to the farmers of an area which remains chronically affected by drought. During all these years, the budget estimates were revised four times and each time the allocations had to be raised substantially.

The first estimate was for Rs. 7.5 crores, the second estimate was for Rs. 14.5 crores, the third estimate was for Rs. 70 crores and the fourth estimate which is the current one is for Rs. 102 crores and yet the project is nowhere near the take off stage. This has resulted in the aggravation of the problems of the agriculturists, and in particular the sugar industry. Their plight can well be understood by the fact that out of the last 20 years there was no production of foodgrains for 17 years—a fact which has been acknowledged by the Planning Commission. As a result, the people of the taluks of Rawri, Srirampur, Kopergaon, Sangner and Akola are badly hit.

Every year the Central Government has to spend on drought relief, heavy amount is spent on supply of drinking water through tankers and other relief works. There are no jobs for the poor people. The migration from the villages to the towns continues unabated. There does not seem to be any hope for the poor farmers of these areas unless the irrigation project is commissioned.