

There is need to supply electricity on priority basis to the drought affected areas to enable them to operate tubewells for irrigation purposes and thereby save the States from the fury of drought.

I hope that the Government would endeavour to find a permanent solution to the problem of floods and drought at the earliest.

(iii) **Need to provide adequate job security to the contract workers of Surat Textile Mills, Gujarat**

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar) : About 90 per cent of the total workers of Surat Textile Mills, Gujarat are from Orissa. They were lured away by the labour contractors by promising them lucrative wages. But they are still working there on a purely temporary basis and the contractors are collecting commission from their wages.

No service conditions have been prescribed for them. They do not get full pay leave. They do not get wages on the weekly holidays. They do not get medical facilities like the permanent workers. When some workers meet accident at the time of work, they are thrown out of employment. The concerned managements do not enforce any labour laws. Therefore, it is necessary that these workers are rendered full protection from the harassment of the labour contractors. As they have been working since long, their jobs should be regularised without any further delay and other benefits given to the permanent workers should also be given to them. I request the Government of India to direct the concerned management to extend all sort of medical facilities to these workers. I demand that an impartial enquiry should be conducted regarding the conditions existing in Surat Textile Mills and adequate job securities should be provided to the workers.

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

[English]

(iv) **Demand for a comprehensive sugar policy in the Seventh Five Year Plan.**

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : The present level of sugar production in the country is not sufficient to meet our requirements and the Government had to resort to large-scale import of sugar from abroad in the current year in order to meet the demand of the people and also to keep the spiralling prices of sugar in check at a reasonable level. It may be recalled that in the past we were able to export sugar in moderate quantities. This reversal of the situation from being surplus to deficit in sugar production and its rising prices, undoubtedly indicates that there is something wrong in our planning and policies so far as production of sugar is concerned.

It is necessary to increase the licensed capacity of sugar factories. More licenses for setting up new sugar factories and for expanding the existing factories should be given to increase sugar production. Targets should be fixed before issuing licences for new factories. Adequate facilities should also be provided to encourage new units.

It is also necessary to ensure remunerative prices of the sugarcane growers and provide them other incentives to increase production of sugar-cane.

A comprehensive new sugar policy for the Seventh Five-Year Plan should be formulated and announced by the Government as early as possible to make India a surplus country in sugar production.

[Translation]

(v) **Need to declare Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh as industrially backward areas**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, District Bastar is considered a backward Adivasi area not only in Madhya Pradesh but in the entire country. But even then that district has not been treated as an industrially backward district of the country. Whoever visits the district, he is surprised to see why it has been deprived of industries.

The backwardness of Bastar is due to illiteracy and lack of facilities like transportation, irrigation, electricity and cottage industries and in this respect it is more backward than the other Adivasi areas of the State. Though the Central Government has declared it an Adivasi sub-plan area and has undertaken developmental activities, yet why has it not been declared as a 'no-industry district' ?

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to declare this Adivasi area as industrially backward district to enable the local educated youth to set up cottage industries and utilise the available forest and mineral resources. This would solve the increasing unemployment problem in the area. Timely action should be taken remedy the resentment among the Adivasis regarding supply of forest and mineral wealth from their area to the industries in other States.

[English]

(vi) **Need to give more financial assistance to Cardamom Trading Corporation and representation to Cardamom growers of Karnataka in the corporation**

KUMARI D. K. THARA DEVI (Chikmagalur) : Sir, to safeguard the interests of Cardamom growers of Karnataka, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 :

Karnataka produces about 1500 tonnes of Cardamom, through majority of small growers. The trade is in the hands of a few vested interests and both the export and internal markets are controlled by these people at the cost of small growers and consumers. They buy cheaply from them and sell it to consumers at abnormal prices. To give a remunerative return to growers and to sell the Cardamom to consumers at reasonable prices, the Cardamom Trading Corporation will have to buy steadily substantial quantity (at least fifty per cent, that is, 700 tonnes) of Karnataka production from June to February (Harvesting time). The Corporation needs about Rs. 5 crores of assistance from the Government as Seed Capital for purchases. The rest can be raised with Banks. At present, the Government has

given an assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs for the Corporation. Rs. 50 lakhs is too meagre to participate in steady buying (to maintain steady cardamom prices), since the unit value of Cardamom on an average is between Rs. 150 and Rs. 200 per kg.

The growers have not been benefited by the C.T.C. as it does not have funds for steady buying and to keep the market steady. The poor performance of the C.T.C. has given ample scope for vested traders to exploit the growers and consumers. The growers of Karnataka are agitated at the functioning of the C.T.C. The full Board of the C.T.C. has not been formed yet. There is no grower's representative to activate the Corporation in the interests of the growers. Therefore I request the Government :

(1) To give Rs. 5 crore as Seed Capital to the Cardamom Trading Corporation; and

(2) To form the full Board, with due representation to the growers from Karnataka as initially C.T.C. is to market Karnataka Cardamom.

(vii) **Demand for a road-cum-railway bridge across the river Krishna to join Repalle and Machilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali) : Repalle in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh and Machilipatnam in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh are just separated by river Krishna to a width of about 4 kms. with their respective railway terminals. Both are very fertile and rich lands with the alluvial deposits of river Krishna. Now there is scanty facility of crossing the river by country boats. This transit is not very dependable and could operate only when there is sufficient depth of water; and in other times people have to reach from one end to the other, only through Vijayawada, contouring a distance of about 120 kms. I have been writing to the Railway Ministry more than often to provide a road cum railway bridge across the river Krishna at any nearest point. This project is economically very sound with good financial returns. Hence, I request the Hon. Railway Minister to evince personal