

Business Advisory Committee

th coastal areas and soil erosion is taking place rapidly, ultimately giving rise to many serious epidemics. Flood affected proper have been finding it difficult to protect their lives and property. Recently when I visited the place, the local residents wanted a survey team to be sent by the Central Government to prepare to report on the problems of the local residents.

Therefore, through this August House, I would like to urge upon the Government to send a central team to my constituency Rajmahal and get a report in regard to the problems being faced by the flood affected people. The Government should take immediate necessary steps to check the soil erosion, to provide financial aid to the flood affected people and make arrangements for the fodder of their cattle. Above all, immediate effective measures should also be taken to check the epidemics breaking rapidly in this region.

(vi) Need for early Completion of Dihari Hydro Power Plant in Rohtas District, Bihar

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH(Bikramgani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to inform that a Hydro Power Plant in Dihari area of Rohats district is being set up by the Central Government. This plant will generate 15 Magawatts of electricity. Its construction was started in 1987 and was expected to be completed in March 1991. This unit is supposed to fulfill the electricity requirements of Rohtas and Babhna districts which have been facing a Constant power crisis. However, the project has not been completed so far. Due to delay in its completion, a large amount of money is going waste.

Therefore, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Power to this problem and urge him to give orders for an early completion of the project.

(vii) Need for continuous exploratory activities in Orissa

[English]

SHRISIVAJIPATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Sir, Oil India Limited, a Government of India enterprise, commenced its offshore petroleum exploration ventura in June, 1979 with the setting up of Bay Exploration Project at Bhubaneswar. Since then, Exploratory Drilling activity has been conducted both offshore and on-shore and a total of 18 wells had been drilled until mid 1983.. Subsequently various offshore seismic surveys were carried out utilising the best available inland and overseas technology. The prognosis of the interpreted data was favourable and Oil India Limited decided to go for another two wells drilling programme and the same was put up before the Government of India for approval in 1991. But as yet nothing has happened. For four years, no exploratory drilling activity could be carried out. Now as it seems with a view to close down the project, the Oil India Ltd., is contemplating to reduce its staff drastically.

This is done at a time when our country imports he bulk of its crude oil requirements and therefore, continued exploratory activity for the augmentation of our petroleum reserves for attaining self-sufficiency is of prime importance.

Closure of the Bay Exploration Project especially when the geological prognostics are very indicative of the hydrocarbon in the onshore and offshore areas surveyed, would certainly be a blow to the country as well as to the State of Orissa.

In would, therefore, urge upon the Government for continuance of the exploratory activities in Orissa.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch and would met again at 2.45 p.m.