

[Smt. Suraj Dubey]

my Parliamentary Constituency lies adjacent to Madhya Pradesh border. Silka Sand is available here in a large quantity. After mining of Silka Sand it is delivered to various parts of the country. Silka Sand is used in the manufacture of glass etc. In the absence of any Silka Sand based glass factory in Shankargarh area the Silka Sand is despatched outside and as a result thereof this area is deprived of the full profits accruing from Silka Sand. The Central Government had launched a scheme for starting a factory at Bargarh area (Bundelkhand) on the border of Allahabad and Banda, but this scheme remains stalled for economic reasons.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to set up a Silka Sand based glass factory at Shankargarh area of Allahabad so that along with the industrial development of the area, maximum utilisation of Silka Sand could be made thus, providing employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of this area.

(vi) **Need to Prepare an Integrated Plan to Fight the menace of Erosion and Floods in Assam**

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): The erosion by the rivers Brahmaputra and Bar and their tributaries in Assam has assumed serious and dangerous proportions. In my constituency, erosion by rivers Manah, Beki and Aie, in addition to that by Brahmaputra has already eaten up large areas of land. The erosion by rivers in Assam every year adds to the agonies of the people who have to face the furies of floods in waves after waves.

Every year, hundreds of acres of land are eaten up by the rivers in Assam. It adversely affects the economy of the State which is mostly based on agriculture. There is so far no integrated plan to fight erosion and flood. The *ad hoc* measures, so far taken have failed to protect the land and economy of the State.

In view of the above, while demanding relief and rehabilitation to the affected people, I urge upon the Union Government to prepare an integrated plan to fight the menace of erosion and flood in Assam.

(vii) **Need to Look into the Problems Faced by Coconut Workers of Konaseema, Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): The Konaseema area of East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh is the second largest coconut plantation area after Kerala. There are nearly 50,000 families of coconut workers residing in my parliamentary constituency of Amalapuram and there are nearly two lakhs acres of coconut plantation. However, their average work is only about 12 days in any month for which they receive very meagre salaries. During the layoff periods they do not receive any income either from the contractors or from the Government. These workers are facing lot of problems. They sometimes lose their lives when they fall from the coconut trees or become physically handicapped.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take immediate action for welfare of the workers and ensure that benefits under Provident Fund Scheme, risk allowance, Ex-gratia, medical benefits, ESI Scheme, Insurance, etc. are provided to coconut workers.

(viii) **Need to Provide Funds for the Development of Industrial Sector in Kerala**

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Kerala is one of the most industrially backward States in the country. The main reason for the industrial backwardness is the lack of sufficient funds for SSI and tiny industrial units. There has been steady decline in the credit deposit ratio of the commercial banks in Kerala. They are collecting deposits and transferring the same to other States. The Credit Deposit Ratio in Kerala in 1974-75 was 71.69 per cent; in 1984-85: 63.51 per cent; in March 1992: 50.70 per cent; and in September 1992: 49.58 per cent. At the same time the Credit Deposit Ratio of Tamil Nadu is 96.40 per cent and that of Karnataka is 80.14 per cent while Kerala is far behind the targets. It is also understood that in other States collateral security in the form of property is not insisted while in Kerala even in the case of S.S.I. and tiny units, collateral security is insisted apart from the security of plant and machinery. This is a clear case of discrimination.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to issue instructions to the commercial banks for providing the required funds to all viable units without insisting collateral security and thereby rebuild the industrial sector which is facing total ruin.

(ix) **Need to Revise the Rate of Coal Royalty Payable to Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The coal industry in public sector is presently facing a crisis in Orissa with the State Government imposing land tax at the rate of Rs. 32,000 per acre per annum on the coal bearing area. Having failed to obtain stay order from the Orissa High Court on the collection of this tax and Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited, in a bid to pass on its additional tax burden arising out of the new land tax to the consumers has enhanced the price of coal by RS. 90 per tonne. With this strange phenomenon Orissa coal is now the costliest in the whole country adversely affecting its sale. This will soon have its ramifications in various spheres of economic development. Further, the refusal by the State Government to renew permission in respect of Talcher and Deuberia Coal Minds has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. Closure of these two mines will cause a great deal of loss and throw thousands of employees out of employment.

The last revision of coal royalty has not been beneficial to Orissa particularly with their Cess Law having been struck down by the Supreme Court. What is, therefore, essential on the part of Government of India is to suitably revise the rate of coal royalty forthwith by amending the relevant Act without waiting for the statutory three years' period to be over.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter.