

been placed for railway coaches from Railway Board. This has led to non-utilisation of the skilled and professional manpower and lay off and has rendered 5000 trained workforce jobless.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to place an order for at least 600 coaches and to rescue 5000 families of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. employees.

(iii) Need to provide adequate funds for rural electrification in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh

DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI (Srikakulam): I would like to raise an important issue relating to Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. There is a glaring disparity in rural electrification in Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. This area is poorly electrified. As of now less than 40 per cent of the small villages and hamlets are electrified as against 70 per cent in the State. Some of the SC and ST villages and colonies are yet to be electrified.

The Central Government has set up Rural Electrification Corporation to take care of the ill developed areas. But there is no subsidiary of the organisation in this District, which consists of hilly tribal areas and coastal villages. There are only 17 sub-stations, in the entire district with two Parliamentary segments. There are thousands of irrigation motors and pumpsets for energisation in the area.

I therefore urge upon the Central Government to press on Rural Electrification Corporation to allocate sufficient funds for total electrification and the all-round development of the District.

(iv) Need to provide high grade coke to brick industry in the country

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI (Kaiserganj): Sir, about 60,000 units of brick industry which fall under rural industry and which provide employment to 90 lakh labourers directly, are facing a great crisis due to non-availability of high grade coke. The former Minister had started supplying 33 per cent of good quality 'B' and 'C' grade coke to the brick industry, which has since been stopped by the Coal Ministry unilaterally. At present, millions of tonnes of high grade coke has been sold to brokers and other industries under L.S.S. Scheme and the brick industry is forced to buy coal from them on higher rates. The Government of India has recognised the brick industry as an industry.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide all the facilities given to other industries to brick industry alongwith immediate supply of 33 per cent high grade coke as usual so that this pretty old rural industry could work smoothly. The Department of Environment has banned cutting of trees and brick industry is not getting wood in the required quantity. Due to this, inferior quality coke does not burn properly. Keeping in view the need of high grade coke for proper burning, I request that high grade coke be supplied to brick industry immediately.

(v) Need for special central assistance to State Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by recent hailstorms

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker Sir, Rajasthan has

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

its peculiar geographical conditions. It is a backward state and keeps on facing natural calamities one after another continuously. A few days back, farmers' crops worth crores of rupees were destroyed by severe storms and hailstorms and ten persons died of hailstorm blows. Thousands of trees were uprooted and human life, property and livestock suffered great losses. Hundreds of sheep died of hailstorm blows. Thatched and tin roofs of thousands of huts belonging to poor farmers were blown by the wind. Most of the villages of Rajasthan are drought prone. The State Government is already busy in making arrangements for providing employment, drinking water for the drought affected people and making arrangements for fodder for cattle. This new calamity has made the situation worse.

I, therefore, humbly request the Central Government to provide special central assistance to the State Government so that it could provide proper compensation for the deceased and the loss suffered by the farmers due to damage of crops and other damage caused to people and their property by this hailstorm.

(vi) Need to set-up Zonal Headquarters of Railway In Bihar

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand to set up a Zonal Headquarters of Railways in Bihar is quite old. At present, Indian Railways have been divided into nine zones. Out of these, area of operation of four Railway Zones viz. Eastern Railways, North-Eastern Railways and North Eastern Frontier Railways etc. falls in Bihar. But Headquarters of all these four Railway Zones are out of the State.

According to the figures of 1986-87, the total length of railway line in Bihar is 5,362 kilometres constituting 8.7 per cent of the total railway lines in the country. Bihar is the second largest State in terms of population. Bihar's contribution in Railways income is also quite significant. The State contributes 17% of railway income from transportation of coal only. It will be more than 25 per cent if transportation of all other minerals and finished goods is included.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to set up a Zonal Headquarter of Railways in Bihar.

(vii) Need for inclusion of the historic fort town on Khurda In Orissa in Centrally Sponsored Scheme of IDSMT

[English]

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): The historic fort town of Khurda, once the Capital of Orissa, is now having a population of 3,20,000 as per 1991 census. It is a satellite town of Bhubaneswar. This has almost become a part of Bhubaneswar as a result of urban spurt. This town was included in the State List of IDSMT towns in 1984. In fact, a project report was prepared and was submitted to the Government of India in 1984 in this respect. But thereafter nothing has happened.

This historic town which was one of the last bastions of historic resistance of our countrymen against the expansion of British rule, is rapidly growing.

In view of this, I urge upon the Government for its inclusion in the centrally-sponsored scheme if IDSMT so that a balanced urban development