

[English]

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay-North West): Mr. Speaker Sir, with great anguish, I would like to bring before this august House the plight of millions of poor people of our country who leave their homes in rural areas and come to metropolitan towns for their living. And they all live in slums, Sir, I am sure that my honourable colleagues who come from great cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi will agree with me that their living conditions are the concern of all of us. Sir, they live in unhygienic conditions, deprived of basic amenities of life like water, electricity and toilets. The Government is planning to supply pure drinking water even to those people who are living in remote parts of the country. I do not know when such dreams will come true. Just a couple of yards away, in the city, there are people who are enjoying the luxury and other amenities in the form of air-conditioning, flush bathrooms and toilets. And right in front of them the slum people, at the same time, live in one of the most deprived conditions without any amenities of life. Sir, according to the programmes of every Government that comes to power, such facilities to the slum-dwellers are announced. But they are being deprived of the same till today. In Bombay, there are approximately 35 to 40 lakhs of people living in the slums. They come from all parts of the country. The Government of Maharashtra is providing the basic amenities, but to those slum-dwellers only who are in the Maharashtra land and Municipal land. Rest are being deprived of water, electricity and toilets. There are so many other slum people living in defence land, railway land and aviation land who are being deprived of these facilities. They are willing to spend their own money to get these facilities. In spite of repeated requests, the Central Government Ministries have turned deaf ears so far. Therefore, Sir, I appeal through you, to direct the Ministries of the Central Government to allow the slum-dwellers to have these facilities to

make their living conditions better and healthy.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Sir, Bakreswar Thermal Power Project is an important power project in West Bengal. It is the culmination of desires of the people of the State for getting the required power generation after a certain period of time. As a result of acceleration in rural electrification and expansion of industrial base in the State, the demand for power in West Bengal has been in the constant rise every year. In 1994-95, the effective demand for power in the State would reach a stage when the West Bengal Government would be in a position to fulfil the demand if by then the Bakreswar Thermal Project would become complete and ready to generate power as expected. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take suitable steps for providing finance to the Project if the promised help from the Soviet Union is found lacking.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kankar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this august House, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Indian hockey team for its superb victory in the Azlanshah hockey tournament. The Indian hockey team has won an important international tournament after quite a long time.

This victory marks the opening of a new chapter in the history of Indian hockey and I fervently hope that the team would work harder and win accolades in future too. I request the Union Government and the Indian Hockey Federation to extend their whole hearted cooperation in this regard.

On this occasion, I would also like to extend my felicitations to the Coach Bal Kishan Singh and his associates, who are personally known to me. The Minister of Human Resource Development and his Ministry too deserve our greetings. (Interruptions).