

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

the provision of fuel for all, it is not possible to provide "food for all".

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to sanction LPG agencies in each and every sub-divisional towns in Orissa without any further delay.

(iii) Need to increase supply of Electricity to Uttar Pradesh from Central Sector

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao): Sir, Uttar Pradesh is getting 2,044 M.W. of electricity from the Central projects, whereas the production capacity of central sector is 6,760 M.W. Thus Uttar Pradesh, share is 323 percent against the total generation capacity. It is to be noted that Uttar Pradesh is most populated and also a backward state in respect of electricity supply. The State has 168 units per capita electricity consumption whereas as per data of 1990-91 the Indian average per capita electricity consumption is 253 units. Therefore, it is very essential to meet the ever increasing demand of electricity in order to remove economic disparity from different sectors. Hence, the electricity share from Central sector projects to Uttar Pradesh should be at least 50 per cent.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to give this issue a thought at the earliest and increase the supply of electricity to Uttar Pradesh.

(iv) Need to consider Assigning Work for Construction of Box Wagons to Jamalpur Railway Workshop in Bihar

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr): I want to draw Governments'

attention towards the problems being faced by the workers of Jamalpur Rail Factory. This factory was established in 1862 and at that time there were 22 thousand workers in this factory. At present, there are only 10,000 workers in this factory who are proficient in their job but there is no work in the factory. Last year Rail factories and Private factories all over India were asked to give their quotations for the construction of box wagons. The lowest quotation was that of Jamalpur factory which quoted a price of 2 lakh and 80 thousand rupees.

I, therefore, request the Railway Minister that keeping in view the interests of the workers, the Jamalpur factory should be entrusted the job of construction of box wagons as this factory is proficient in this job.

(v) Need for continuation of Vayudoot Operations to Vijayawada and also to take steps for lengthening and strengthening of runway there

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, traffic to and from Vijayawada has been increasing at a substantial rate. The Government of India have stated that to meet the growing demand, Indian Airlines will take steps to operate Boeing aircraft to Vijayawada airport before the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. While night-landing facilities have been provided, lengthening and strengthening of the runway work at Vijayawada has not yet been grounded though land was made available by State Government. Meanwhile, Vayudoot has taken up operations on Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry sector. These operations are irregular and their timing unsuitable. The passengers are thus

experiencing inconvenience. The operations are, now and then, being discontinued leading to severe inconvenience to the travelling public for the last few months.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to immediately look into the matter and take necessary steps for continuation of Vayudoot operations. I also urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps for lengthening and strengthening the runway to facilitate operations of Boeing aircraft between Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupathi and Madras sector. At other airports, such as Cochin, Madurai, Port Blair, Visakhapatnam, Boeing aircraft are operated though the runway length is 6,000 ft. So, at Vijayawada airport also, the present runway with 5,925 ft. length should be strengthened immediately and Boeing aircraft must be operated for the convenience of travelling public.

- (vi) **Need to give clearance to various irrigation projects in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra**

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): There are various irrigation projects awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra. Dongargaon and Karwafa Irrigation projects are such examples. Government of Maharashtra have already made the proposal and accepted the conditions laid down by the Government of India for clearance of Dongargaon Irrigation project. I urge upon the Government of India to give clearance to the Dongargaon project so that the work could be started immediately and the present drought affected situation could be eased out giving employment to large section of people. Similarly, Umari,

Bhendaja, Hattigota, Nimbala, Mongali and Pipari irrigation projects also await clearance from Government of India. I urge the Central Government to give permission to start work on these projects without delay.

- (vii) **Need to provide Exemption from Excise Levy to mini Cement Plants in Rajasthan**

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar): The mini cement plants in the country in general and Rajasthan in particular have been facing severe financial crisis. The Government of India took policy decisions to promote the establishment of Mini Cement Plants. A number of mini cement plants have come up in different States. As many as 125 mini cement plants have been set up in Rajasthan. The Government of India liberalised the economy and granted incentives to several sectors. But no incentive was granted to this particular one. On the other hand, heavy excise duty was imposed and interest rate enhanced on the loans taken by those plants.

The interest was abruptly increased to 19.75 per cent from the existing rate of 12.5 per cent. The entrepreneurs were compelled to execute a modification deed as they were at a point of no return after having invested almost 100 per cent of their contribution. This has caused additional burden of Rs. 6-7 lakh per annum changing the total viability and putting them in huge losses.

I urge upon the Central Government to prevail upon the financial institutions to re-examine the issue of the enhanced rate of interest in right perspective and to ensure the total Exemption from excise