

[Sh Manku Ram Sodi]

Electrification Corporation under the Tribal Sub Plan has been declared as electrified. There are a number of wards in a village located at distant places and the local panchayat has been entrusted the responsibility of electrifying the remaining wards. There is no source of income with Tribal Panchayats. It is not possible for the panchayats to perform the job of providing electric connection to the remaining wards of the village. This situation is creating a sense of jealousy among the people.

The Central Government is therefore requested to approve the scheme of electrification of every ward by the R E C in the Tribal Sub plan areas. In the existing system of providing electric connection, there is no likelihood of providing electric connection to every house of tribal villages under this Sub plan even in the next fifty years.

(iii) Need to provide Financial Assistance for ongoing Irrigation Projects of Orissa.

[English]

DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) The irrigation projects in Orissa, particularly the on-going projects, have been facing severe financial crunch. Besides Suvamarekha inter-State multi-purpose project, there are four major irrigation projects namely, Upper Indravati, Rangali, Upper Kolab and Potteru which have been approved since 1978, 1973, 1975 and 1973. Till today, these projects have not been completed. There are 12 on-going irrigation projects including Hanharjore, Harbhang, Upper Jonk, Badanalla and Dev Baghua which have been approved since 1978, 1979, 1981, 1992, 1978 respectively. These projects have the irrigation potential to cater to the need of the entire State. But the State Government is not in a position to bear more than Rs 300 crores for these projects and with amount these projects cannot be completed. So, it is very necessary to obtain

funds from World Bank to bear the cost of these projects. The State Government has made an estimate of Rs 5300 crores for these projects. In the interest of a backward State like Orissa which is faced with drought, flood, cyclone or some natural calamity or the other every year, it is necessary to clear the proposal of the State Government and request for World Bank assistance to get early sanction of Rs 5300 crores.

I request that funds desired by the Government of Orissa for the on-going major and medium irrigation projects be arranged by the Centre from the World Bank during the current financial year.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER The approved portion of the text will only be recorded.

(iv) Need to discontinue levy of toll tax in respect of bridges where construction cost has already been recovered.

[Translation]

SHRIMOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amount spent on the construction of bridges on rivers is recovered through toll tax and more over the recovery of toll tax is also justified. But there are many bridges in respect of which the construction cost has been recovered along with interest so it is not justified to continue charging toll tax on them. There are hundreds of bridges whose construction cost had been recovered even 10 or 20 years also but even then the toll tax is being recovered on those bridges. Every year contracts for those bridges are being awarded. Thus the recovery of toll tax causes the common people to suffer. The Central Government is therefore, requested to discontinue the levy of toll tax in respect of the bridges where construction cost has already been recovered. I would like to request the State Governments as well as the Central Government to take action in this matter urgently.