

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

Bihar is not in a position to complete this petty remaining work due to shortage of funds. The Central Government is, therefore, requested to make available the required funds for completing end remaining work of the siphon under Central sponsored project and take initiative for setting up a Western Koshi Canal Bord (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

(vi) Need to lay rail line from gond Junction to Nepalganj Raod station for the development of Baharaich district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI (Kesharganj): Sir, Baharaich, the border district of Uttar Pradesh is the most backward area in the Terai region. There is no industry in our district which can provide employment for the unemployed persons of the district. The industrialists are not prepared to set up industries in the area due to absence of any broad gauge railway line. The broad gauge railway line is laid upto the Gonda district. Our district is at a distance of 60 Kilometres from there. The loop line leads from Gonda to Bareilly via Baharaich, Nepal-ganj Raod and Maulani. I would like to urge upon the Central Government that the Baharaich district should be declared as industrially backward district and the broad gauge railway line from Gonda junction to Nepalganj Raod Station should be constructed to ensure its development and to provide employment opportunities to the people of the area.

(vii) Need to formulate programmes for cash crops development and increase in their prices

[English]

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): The price of cash crops in Kerala has almost reached the nadir. Pepper, cardamom ginger, coffee, cocoa, tea growers are in difficulties. The small pepper growers who form the backbone of Kerala's economy from Kasargode to Trivandrum are reeling under terrible hardships. The price of pepper which was Rs. 6,000 per quintal three years back is now only Rs. 2700. During the last three or four years, the cost of production has increased four-fold. Some disastrous plant diseases have ruined pepper vines in Idukki district on a vast scale. The production of the crop also has gone down. Still the price is abysmally low. This is an unperceivable irony and mystery. Indian cardamom is facing grave threats of smuggling by Nepal from Guatemala. Ginger, coffee, Coca etc., also on the downhill path of ruin.

The Union Government have many programmes for increasing production and prices of foodgrains. I request the Government to chalk out urgently and implement similar special cash crops production programmes like integrated programme for Cash Crops Development Assistance Schemes, Marketing Support Schemes, Marketing Complexes Projects and other Marketing Schemes to help development as well as price increase of these cash crops.

(viii) Need to take steps for early completion of Bilapur drinking water project in Ajmer. Rajasthan

[Translation]

PFOF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, barring a few, most of the area of Rajasthan State face drinking water short-