

[Kumari Frida Topno]

person is found from this area. In the years to come this may turn out to be a matter of great public concern and which may lead to public resentment. Sir, I therefore request the Central Government to establish a Central University at Rourkela in Orissa.

(iv) Need to develop Gopalpur Minor port in Orissa into an All-weather Major port

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) : The proposal for upgrading Gopalpur Minor Port to an All-Weather Major Port has been pending since long. Apart from the Major Port at Paradip, Gopalpur is the only Minor Port in Orissa coastline.

Due to mass industrialisation programmes, the sea-bound traffic has increased considerably. Moreover, due to establishment of coal-fired Thermal Power Stations in the Southern States, the demand for coastal movement of large quantity of coal has surfaced in the recent past. Many Southern States vigorously search to provide port facilities, for movement of coal. Gopalpur Port is ideally located for meeting the requirement of entire Southern India. This is possible, if freight-handling capacity of the Port is enhanced to 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes per day, from the existing, 1,500 to 2,000 tonnes per day. It is necessary for augmenting the additional fleet capacity, storage space and godown facilities. Since the vast hinterland of the Port consists of backward and tribal areas, the up-gradation of this Port would act as a catalyst, for the economic development of Southern Orissa as a whole. The present Fair-Weather Port with an infrastructure already created, remains idle for six months in a year.

Hence to make the existing Port economically viable, I request the Central Government that the Gopalpur Minor Port be developed into an All-Weather Major Port.

(v) Need for Construction of Separate Bridges for Road and Road Traffic on River Ganga Katchhala in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Sir, a railway bridge is there on river Ganga at Katchhala, which is situated in between Bareilly-Badman-Mathura road. Metre-gauge trains as well as vehicles pass through this bridge. This bridge is very old and is in bad shape. The experts have declared that it can collapse any time, resulting in loss of property and life. There is single line linking North with West going upto Bombay. It will be totally blocked in such circumstances and essential commodities would not reach there. This is single lane track. So I would request the Union Government that separate bridges for road and rail traffic should be constructed, otherwise, a serious accident can take place any time. It is necessary to take appropriate measures to avoid such accident.

(vi) Need to bring Legislation Banning all Lotteries in the Country

[English]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a mushroom growth of private lotteries in the country. The laudable philosophy behind Government owned lotteries for the purpose of raising funds to rehabilitate famine and drought hit areas is no more visible. Now it is a scene of commercial victimisation and rampant cheating to deceive the gullible public. The private lotteries have been violating all norms in order to allure the public with affluent gains overnight.

A lottery market in our country will reveal an array of lottery counters exhibiting hundreds of operations with many denominations. There are the monthly, weekly, daily and even hourly draws. This vividly reflects on the faver behind amassing illegal wealth on the party of the lottery operators for what other logical reason is avail-

able to substantiate 'hourly lotteries'. In fact, it has been observed that many of the lotteries, especially the daily and hourly lotteries are nothing more than 'MADKA BUSINESS' in the guise of lottery.

The State Government has not been able to place proper checks and controls. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has rightly banned all lottery businesses. In Andhra Pradesh with the ban on arrack there will be immediate tendency on the part of the delinquent rich to channel their moneys into the lottery business. More than half of the State Government have supported ban on lotteries and have appealed to the Central Government to bring about a legislation.

I request the Central Government to consider the immediate necessity of banning all lotteries in the country by means of a central legislation.

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to Orissa Government to tackle drought and drinking water Problem in Keonjhar district

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Keonjhar district in Orissa is now reeling under severe drought. This year, drought has been prevailing in all the three sub-divisions of the district. Starvation deaths have been taking place in Ghatgaon, Hanchandan Pur and the Juang belt of Banspal block. Despite increasing incidents of starvation deaths, the matter has not come to lime-light. The Administration is not responsive and no steps have been taken to combat the drought situation.

The Kharif crops were affected last year due to scanty rainfall. The rabi crops yield in the plain areas were also not satisfactory for want of proper irrigation facilities. Drought situation has prevailed now as there has been no rains for last 7 to 8 months. This has also led to the severe scarcity of drinking water. The situation is very grim. Therefore, it is necessary to distribute

relief in the district on war footing. The small and marginal farmers should be supplied with certified seeds and good quality fertilisers free of cost. The short-term loans taken by the farmers should be converted into long-term loans. The loan taken upto rupees ten thousands by all the farmers may be waived. I also request that special grants should be sanctioned by the Union Government to tackle problems of drought and drinking water in Keonjhar district.

(viii) Need to provide better road communication system in Barpeta, West Bengal

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): Sir, my constituency Barpeta comprises, costly of rural areas with Assembly segments falling in three districts. It is very backward in road communication system. In the absence of a suitable road system, the people have to make a long and tedious roundabout to reach Barpeta town, the district headquarter of Barpeta district. Naturally, the people in my constituency demand the improvement in the road system and building up of new roads.

The long-standing demand of the people of my constituency is to construct a lateral road from North Salamara to Guwahati, connecting Abhayapura, Lengtichinga, Kalgachia, Jamia Barpeta, Hajo etc. Covering major parts of four districts in lower Assam which are very backward, both economically and socially.

The importance of this proposed lateral road has been recognised by many personalities, social and political workers. A survey had also been conducted. There is a broad agreement of opinions in that. If built up, this road would go a long way to help socio-economic development of the potential of backward rural areas, in addition to saving energy consumption and minimising the hardship of the people.

I urge upon the Central Government to go into the matter and make steps for improving a social and economically backward area.