

[Sh. R. Dhamuskodi Athithan]

accrue by exporting diamonds to USA as counter trade. As the country is facing shortage of electricity, the Government should take initiative and render all support to this project. This novel project is generating electricity, with the help of sun's heat stored in its upper layers well by giving by-products such as drinking water, alkali, bromine, carbon-dioxide, hydrogen, oxygen etc.

Tamil Nadu Government has already sanctioned this Sea Solar Project and the matter is pending with Union Finance Ministry for clearance. Therefore, I request the Central Government to clear it to enable them to start the Project at Kulasekarapatnam at the earliest possible.

(ii) Need to set up mineral based Industries in Balaghat district , Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Balaghat district is among those backward districts of Madhya Pradesh which is largely populated by the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled castes and backward classes. There are huge mineral reserves here which mainly include manganese, copper ore, dolomite. Besides, the area is rich in forestry. These reserves can be exploited to solve the problem of unemployment.

I would, therefore, like to submit to the Central Government that industries based on minerals and forests (Copper Smelting Plant, Ferro manganese Plant) should be set up in the area.

(iii) Need to set up an engineering College and an IIT at Berhampur, district Ganjam. Orissa.

[English]

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Orissa has not made much progress in the field of education. The South-

ern Orissa comprising the district of Ganjam, Phulabani, Koraput and now created Gajapathi and Malkangiri lag behind the rest of the Orissa in educational facility. Not a single engineering College has been established in the entire Southern Orissa. The students who want to undergo higher studies in engineering have to go to Rourkela or Burla which are about 400 to 500 Kms. from Berhampur. As such many poor but meritorious students are deprived of going for higher studies in engineering. There is a tremendous scope to establish and expand engineering studies in Ganjam district. The growing demand for engineering studies with infrastructural facilities like a lot of open space, mines and marine resources for field work etc. justify that an engineering college and an IIT should be set up at Berhampur.

Besides, Government of India has been laying great stress on the promotion of vocational and technical education Berhampur university is the only university in the country without engineering college. I urge upon the Government that a full-fledged engineering college and an IIT should be set up at Berhampur in Ganjam district, Orissa during the 8th plan period.

(iv) Need to fix remunerative price for groundnut at Rs. 1000/- per quintal in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur): Andhra Pradesh stands almost at par with Gujarat in the production of groundnuts. Out of total production, 90 per cent is grown in rained areas of Rayalaseema and in Telanganaf districts. As against 90 per cent of the crop, 60 percent is grown in Rayalseema district, which is one of the major commercial crops grown there.

The price of groundnut has prevailed between Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1300 per quintal during the last 3 to 4 years and it has steeply fallen down to Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 per quintal this year, that too when the prices of fertilizers, pesticides (labour have gone up abnormally). The Sun Flower and cotton growers find difficult to dispose of their stocks at the prevailing price and the crop is laying for