

World Disabled Day was observed on the 3rd December this year throughout the world. Yet the disabled in our country are still awaiting suitable legislation, not by way of charity, but as a matter of right.

The Disabled Persons (Security and Rehabilitation) Bill, 1981 failed to be enacted into law. The report of the Baharul Islam Committee constituted in 1987, on Legislation for the handicapped recommended *inter alia* free and universal elementary education, reservation of jobs in Government and the private sectors, accessibility to buildings through amendment to the building bye-laws and assessment of the extent and prevalence of disability in the census. The report submitted in 1988 has not yet been implemented.

Our efforts in rehabilitating the disabled shows our society in poor light. I urge the Union Government to take immediate steps not only for legislating on the right of the disabled, but formulating comprehensive schemes for their rehabilitation.

(iv) *Need for Early Setting Up of Growth Centre at Cannanore in Kerala*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Cannanore) Mr. Chairman, Sir, Cannanore was one of the two districts in Kerala chosen for setting up of industrial growth centres. People of Cannanore are deeply concerned about the inordinate delay in commencing work on setting up of the industrial growth centre there. If the work is further delayed, the very purpose of the scheme will be defeated and the project will suffer because of cost escalation, etc.

I therefore, request the Government to ensure that immediate steps are taken to set up and commission the growth centre at Cannanore.

(v) *Need to include Bhojpur and Buxar Districts of Bihar under Integrated Rural Development Programme and to provide adequate funds for development of these districts*

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, sir the Government of India has made provision in 1993-94 Budget to link villages with main roads by constructing pucca roads and funds therefor will be given by the central Government. No, funds have been provided for construction of roads for linking villages with main roads in my area. Even the main roads are in a bad condition whether it is Chausa to Dhansai Road, Buxar to Dinara road, Vasdeva to Soncharia road, Bohia Chaurasta to Gora Bazar Road or Bohia-Chaurasta to Peero Road. The condition of all these roads is not good. Kachcha roads are better than these roads. The farmers are suffering losses due to these roads as they have to sell their produce at cheaper rates.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to bring the village in Buxar and Bhojpur districts under Intergated Rural Development Programme for alrounds development of these villages and to link the roads of the villages with main roads. Funds should be provided for this purpose at the earliest.

(vi) *Need for construction of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar hostel at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh for the Welfare of SC and Backward class students*

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : My Parliament constituency Hapur has a population of 29 lakh and out of it 8 lakh people belong to backward classes.

The students coming from villages who belong to Scheduled Castes and backward classes have to discontinue their studies due to higher travelling expenses and higher house rents in cities. Thus the promising students of scheduled castes and backward classes are deprived of the educational opportunities. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes are demanding to set up a Dr. Ambedkar hostel in Ghaziabad which would provide boarding facilities to students belonging to Dalits and backward classes coming from villages. But so far the Government has not paid any attention to it.

Sir, through you, I would like to make a demand from the hon. Minister to accord his approval for opening of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Hostel in Ghaziabad keeping in view the boarding and lodging problems of the students belonging to Harijan and backward classes so that promising students could continue their studies who are otherwise compelled to discontinue in the midway.

(vii) *Need to Provide Central Assistance to West Bengal Government for Overall Development of Sunderban Region.*

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sunderben area in West Bengal has the poorest population. A single crop, that is, fishing felling trees in the forests or collecting honey have been the livelihood of the Sunderban inhabitants for decades.

Sunderban Development Board was created by the State Government in 1973 for the formulation and execution of integrated programme for development of the backward Sunderban region on the basis of assessment of the resources, endowment and the quality and coverage of the existing infrastructural facilities. Over the last two decades, the Sunderban Development Board had formulated some schemes and programmes in this behalf. Since State funds were not adequate to tackle the basic problems of the Sunderban region, the possibility of getting external assistance was explored and in collaboration with the World Bank sponsored International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a development plan with the object of bringing about substantial improvement in the economic conditions of the people, particularly for the small and marginal farmers, was launched. This project resulted in improvement of agricultural production potential through establishing irrigational facilities. The IFA assisted project expired in June, 1989.

To keep up the tempo of development, the Sunderban Development Plan Phase-II covering a period of five years and involving a capital outlay of Rs. 67.5 crores had been forwarded by the Government of West Bengal to the Government of India last year for exploring the possibility of having external assistance, as the resources of the State Government were not sufficient to meet any part of the Plan expenditure.

Sir, I therefore, request the Central Government to consider the development of this most backward area by allocating special fund for the purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we move on to the next item on the agenda.