

down due to the fact that the Beedi manufacturers are not getting the right quality of tendu leaves for the last two years.

About a million tribals in Raigarh, Sagar, Shahdol and Bilaspur earn their livelihood from beedi industry. The plight of the people particularly in the famine affected Orissa is beyond description. It is regrettable that the tribals following the stoppage of Government purchases were being forced to carry their leaf bags to 40-50 kms away in town to sell them off.

Unless the Central Government prevails upon the State Government to change the Tendu leaf policy and also to liberalise the taxes, the position will go from bad to worse. Lakhs of workers engaged in as many as 600 registered beedi factories will suffer.

I urge the Government to intervene in the matter and improve the plight of lakhs of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh.

- (ii) **Need to ensure that Delhi Development Authority does not hike land prices exorbitantly.**

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): By hiking the land prices at an exorbitant price at the rate of Rs. 1650.65 per metre the DDA has made it difficult for middle and lower middle class sections of the city's population to have a house. This hike will wipe out the co-operative housing movement in the city.

The concept of Group Housing Societies took birth sometime in the early seventies with DDA offering land at a very nominal price of Rs. 54 per square metre. The Authority offered to build roads and trunk services necessary for such areas. Though the land was allotted to several societies, the price of the land continues to escalate from Rs. 110 per square metre to Rs. 975 in 1991 and to Rs.

1650.65 this year.

This enormous hike affects over 200 Housing Societies awaiting land in Dwarka project, coming up on the outskirts of the city. It is omitted that the price of land and cost of development may have gone up by three to five times, but the DDA had hiked up the land prices 15 times.

The new prices have been fixed without any criteria. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter to ensure that middle and lower middle class citizens are not charged exorbitantly by the DDA.

- (iii) **Need to open more cooking gas outlets in several regions, particularly Seoni, Narsingpur and Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people in most of the districts in Madhya Pradesh and particularly in Seoni, Narsingpur and Jabalpur are facing a lot of problems in cooking their food, as a ban has been imposed on felling of trees under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and due to the inadequate supply of kerosene oil.

The distribution of cooking gas connections in these areas is almost nil. The residents of these regions are demanding gas connections on a large scale as an alternative source of fuel. The Petroleum Ministry in neither setting up any gas filling plant at Shahpura, Narouni (Jabalpur) nor is issuing new connections. To stop the felling of trees in these areas, the Ministry of Petroleum and the Ministry of Environment and Forests should ensure that maximum number of gas agencies and gas connections are allotted to these areas.

[Kumri Vimala Verma]

So, the Government is requested to take necessary steps immediately in this regard.

- (iv) **Need to take gas pipe line upto Madhya Pradesh for setting up of gas based power plants there**

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute scarcity of electricity in Madhya Pradesh. So, to remove the scarcity, immediate sanction should be given to supply gas in adequate quantity from H.B.J. gas pipeline to Madhya Pradesh so that gas based power plants could be set up there. This will improve the situation of power supply in Madhya Pradesh and will give relief to the workers working in the scarcity hit sectors of agriculture and industry.

- (v) **Need to sanction cooking gas agencies at Dungargarh and Taranagar towns, Rajasthan**

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN (Churu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the petroleum Minister towards the difficulty being faced by the residents of Dungargarh and Taranagar Towns under my constituency Churu in the absence of any gas agency.

Sir, the population of both these towns is about one lakh. Several government offices, industries, tehsil and courts are situated here. The citizens had to face a lot of difficulty and no gas agency has been opened here. They had to buy gas cylinders in black at higher price.

So, I would request the hon. Minister that in view of the difficulty being faced by

the people of my Constituency, Churu, arrangements should be made at the earliest to open gas agencies in both these towns.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is surprising that only 2-3 Members are sitting on the Congress benches.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

- (vi) **Need to provide funds to Orissa Government to evolve suitable methodology for checking water logging in Deltaic region of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Although Orissa is very rich in its water resources, but irrigation in the State is lagging far behind other States. One of the main bottlenecks in the way of full utilisation of irrigation potential is water logging. The Deltaic region of the State which is traditionally known as the "rice bowl" of Orissa, suffers from severe water logging. Consequently productivity has got a severe jolt. It has shown a retarding trend. This state of affairs should be seriously looked into by the Central Government. In order to remove water logging and drain congestion a scheme at a cost of about Rs. 600 crores has been formulated by the Government of Orissa. But implementation of the said scheme would put a heavy strain on the resources of the State. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that a special attention is paid to such a hazardous problem, so as to evolve a suitable methodology to free the high yielding lands from water logging. I request the Central Government to provide funds to the Government of Orissa for implementation of the said scheme.