

two overbridges are in a dilapidated condition. There has been a long-pending demand of the people of the surrounding areas for reconstruction of both the over bridges.

Nylom overbridge is touching with MC road from Kerala. Heavy traffic is growing up every day on this road. The breadth of the bridge is narrow as a result of which frequent accidents occur there.

The condition of Nedumpayilkulam overbridge is also similar to that of Nylom overbridge.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take immediate steps for reconstruction of these over bridges.

(III) Need for early sanction of funds for construction of Siddhamukh and Nohar Feeders, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that budget for the Siddhamukh and Nohar Feeders of Rajasthan should be sanctioned. Funds should be sanctioned for the construction of Siddhamukh and Nohar Feeder in the Ninth Five Year Plan. After the completion of the Siddhamukh Feeder, a total of 86,209 hectares of land in 53 villages of Bhadra tehsil and 20 villages of Nohar tehsil of Ganganagar district and 14 villages of Rajgrah tehsil and 2 villages of Taranagar tehsil in Churu district will get irrigational facilities and have bumper crops. Likewise, with the completion of Nohar Feeder in irrigation facilities will be available to 32,536 hectares of land. Out of the total cost of construction for these two feeders a grant-in-aid of Rs. 135 crore is likely to be given by the European Economic Community and the balance of Rs. 60 crore would be borne by the State Government. The total length of Siddhamukh feeder is 107 kilometer of which 87 km. will be constructed by the Haryana Government in its area and the remaining construction work will be completed by the Government of Rajasthan. 46 per cent of the total construction cost of the feeder will be given

to the Government of Haryana and uphill now Rs. 1.93 crore have already been given to them for survey and planning work etc. The digging of earth upto 20 kms. at Siddhamukh Feeder had been started in January 1992 and by now about 80 per cent of the digging work has since been completed.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to approve the Budget estimate for both the canals and take steps to start the work smoothly.

(iv) Need to set up an electronic exchange at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give the following notice under Rule 377:-

I have made several requests to set up an electronic telephone exchange of ten thousand line capacity at Bareilly. Bareilly is a major industrial city in Uttar Pradesh. There are about 12,000 telephone subscribers and a large number is in the waiting list. The subscribers at Bareilly are suffering a lot due to non-availability of an electronic exchanges and the Government is also suffering revenue loss due to it. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Communications to immediately declare setting up of an electronic telephone exchange of ten thousand line capacity at Bareilly, keeping in view the needs of people.

(v) Need for early commissioning of J.K. Petro-Chemical Project, Hathras, Uttar Pradesh.

DR. LALBAHADUR RAWAL (Hathras): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring the following matter to your notice under Rule 377:-

The J.K. Petro-Chemicals Project at Salempur in Hathras constituency of Uttar Pradesh has been pending despite its clearance since last many years. The State Government has completed all the formalities for this project. Now this project is to be

commissioned by the Central Government and the contractor after completing the work. I have drawn the attention of the Government towards this project several times during the last sessions of Parliament but no satisfactory answer has been received. The foundation stone of this project was laid by the Late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi keeping in view the extreme backwardness of this area. This project was launched so that this area could go for an all round development and hundreds of provide employment to educated unemployed youth. As well as the people of the area expect that the Central Government will fulfill the dreams of Late Shri Rajiv Ghandi with the launching of this project at the earliest.

[English]

(vi) Need to safeguard the interests of Linguistic Minorities

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, every linguistic group in the country which forms a majority in one or more States, forms a minority in the other State/Union Territories. In almost every State, the linguistic minorities are not receiving a fair deal in the fields of administration, education and information. The office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has a skeleton structure and Parliament has never discussed its annual reports. The major grievances of the linguistic minorities relate to distortion of the Three Language Formula in effect, removing the mother tongue of linguistic minorities from its scope, non-availability of schools with the mother tongue as a medium of instruction and compulsory pre-condition of proficiency in the principal language of the State for public employment as well as step-motherly treatment in the Government media including time allocation on TV and Radio and Government advertisements in newspapers.

All this needs to be looked into sympathetically so that the national consensus, so built up, is implemented and the grievances can be removed.

(vii) Need to strengthen the Jute Industry in the Country, Particularly in West Bengal

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to the fact that the Jute industry is facing a serious crisis. It is a fact that the major portion of this industry is located in West Bengal with 5,62 lakh hectares of land under jute and mesta cultivation, 1.5 million cultivators involved, 59 jute mills operating, 2.5 lakh workers working in these mills and many other families indirectly earning their livelihood by engaging themselves in trade, transport, storage and sale of jute and jute products. Emerging compassion from synthetic packaging materials in other countries and in India have resulted in stagnation in the jute market. The Central Government itself has drastically curtailed the purchase of B. Twill bags required for foodgrains. To save the jute industry, jute growers, workers and others, I request the Government to take the following necessary urgent measures:

- (i) to replace synthetic packaging by natural fiber materials;
 - (ii) purchase of B. Twill bags by the Central Government;
 - (iii) to strictly enforce jute packaging material Act of 1987; and
 - (iv) to provide adequate working capital to the Jute Corporation of India to ensure its operation, guarantee of purchasing Jute from Jute growers.
- (viii) Need to introduce a new train "Kanchenjunga Express" between New Jalpaiguri and Sikkim**

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Railways are the arteries of our country, but Sikkim is one of the States which is not yet connected by railways. New Jalpaiguri is the nearest railway station for Sikkim. This station caters to the need of the whole of North Bengal, Bhutan, Nepal and Sikkim. The ever-increasing traffic has made the existing platform of New Jalpaiguri very congested. The platform should be made