

I would like to draw the attention to the pathetic condition of Calicut Railway station. It is one of the oldest stations in Southern Railways. Even today, it has not been modernised. There is a general feeling among the public that Malabar region is a neglected part of Southern Railways.

The authorities are taking too much time for starting computerised reservation system in Calicut, even though there is heavy rush for II Class and AC Chair Car. Authorities are showing their disinterest towards this region because even existing facilities are being removed. The authorities have not provided any facility for drinking water and other primary amenities there. At present, trains stop at Calicut. In order to improve the Railway Station some trains which stop at Calicut can be provided a stopping at Kallai station.

**(iii) Need to set up an Aluminum Plant in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI RAM KRISHNA KONATHALA (Anakapalli): The existence of bauxite deposits along the East coast specially in Visakhapatnam, East-Godavari and Vijayanagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh came to light in the year 1970. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Corporation Commission studied the feasibility of setting up of Alumina/Aluminum Plant based on the bauxite deposits and recommended in 1977 for establishment of 6 lakh tonne Alumina Plant and identified Konukonda village near Krishnathivipeta in visakhapattanam district. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited had undertaken the study of feasibility of setting up of Alumina/Aluminum Plant and identified two locations one near Koraput in Orissa and another near Krishnathivipeta near Visakhapatnam district and Boddaram of Vijayanagaram district of Andhra Pradesh. The feasibility study of the proposed plant at Orissa was entrusted to a French firm and the other at Krishnathivipeta was entrusted to the Soviets. The Soviet Experts had submitted to disability report for the project in the year 1980 along with BALVO. The State Government had already confirmed the availability of land totaling 2,433 acres and offered to provide infrastructure like water, power and other

requirements, if any.

In 1986, NALCO and the State and Central Government Departments jointly visited and reviewed the entire plant proposal and NALCO was entrusted with the preparation of feasibility report which was submitted by it to Government of India. The state Government also extended to exempt payment of Mineral Rights Tax and from 1988 till now, no action has been initiated on this plant.

I request the Central Government to see that the proposed Alumina/Aluminium Plant be entrusted to NALCO or Balco at the earliest.

**(iv) Need to bring betel farming within the purview Crop Insurance Scheme**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, betel farming is done in a particular area in the districts of Jhansi and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh. It is the main source of earning for the people of this region. However, for the last 3-4 years the farmers engaged in betel farming have been incurring losses. Standing crops of betel are destroyed by the diseases, unknown so far. As a result of which the framers have to suffer heavy losses and export is also adversely affected. Therefore, I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture to extend Crop Insurance Scheme to betel farming and also give financial assistance to the persons engaged in betel farming.

**(v) Need to provide funds to Rajasthan Government to overcome severe drinking water problem in Tonk district**

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA (Tonk): Rajasthan is in the grip of severe drinking water problem. In my constituency, Tonk, ponds and community wells have gone dry because, below average rainfall in the last few years and the water level going down. The drinking water problem has further worsened because water sources are

[Sh. Ram Narain Berwa]

receiving less water and fluoride and salinity in the water has increased.

The Government of Rajasthan is actively engaged in solving this problem but owing to paucity of resources the state Government is finding it difficult to fully solve the problem.

Therefore, to solve the drinking water problem in Tonk district following suggestions need to be urgently implemented:-

(1) On the lines of schemes in force in other districts of Rajasthan, schemes should be formulated for Tonk district to provide drinking water for cattle;

(2) The project sent by the Government of Rajasthan, to solve the problem of salinity and presence of fluoride in water in 318 affected villages, should immediately cleared be and funds sanctioned therefor.

If timely action is not on the aforesaid suggestions, then loss of human lives and cattle is feared

**(vi) Need to convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of U.P. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh to ensure implementation of Rihand Water Agreement for finding an early solution to the water dispute.**

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): On 16th September, 1973, Ban Sagar agreement was signed by the Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to resolve the water dispute. In the agreement Bihar was to be given 50 lakh acre feet water from the Rihand reservoir. However, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is not honouring the agreement and is diverting water of Rihand reservoir to power projects. It is feared that because of it, the 118 year old Son canal will be rendered is useless and 22.50 lakh acre of land of farmers in the Son district will become barren for lack of water

for irrigation as a result which there will be no production of food grain in the affected area which will be a national loss.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. If no solution is found in the meeting of the Chief Ministers then the issue be handed over to the Supreme Court or a Tribunal.

**(vii) Need to set up a Currency Printing Press at Sallani or at any other place in Orissa**

[English]

SHRI GOPINATH GAJPATHI (Berhampur): The banking sector has been neglected in Orissa state in the absence of the head offices and regional offices of different banks and other financial institutions. This is in spite of a large number of the branches that have been functioning in that state. The people of Orissa are very much agitated due to the inordinate delay in setting up of a Currency Printing Press. The proposal to set up a Currency Printing Press has been pending since long. The Reserve Bank of India had taken a decision long ago to set up the Currency Printing Unit at Mysore in Karnataka and another at Sallani in Orissa.

However, the proposal to set up the Currency Printing Press in Orissa has not been implemented so far. The proposal to locate one Unit in Orissa was finalised by the Government of India, when the RBI decided to have its own Currency Printing Press, instead of depending on the Security Printing Press at Nasik and Dewas. The banking infrastructure will get further neglected if the Currency Printing Press is not set up at Sallani. Hence, it is necessary to expedite the implementation of the aforesaid proposal. This will also remove regional disparity. I therefore, demand that the proposed Currency Printing Press be set up by the Government of India at Sallani or any other place in Orissa without further delay.