

form the neighboring States at a very low cost.

(iii) Need to Allow Maharashtra Government to Raise Funds by Borrowings from Public for Early Completion of Irrigation projects in the State

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL (Nanded): Mr. Speaker, Sir, both Central Government and planning commission have been giving high priority to complete various irrigation projects expeditiously in the traditionally drought-prone areas of Marathwada, Vidarbha and Krishna valley. But funds are required to be raised by public borrowing for early completion of irrigation projects.

The expenditure on these projects is estimated to be 4800 crores of rupees. An allocation of 2000 crores of rupees has been made for this purpose in Eighth five year plan. Out of this allocation an amount of 1850 crores is likely to be spent on Krishna Valley project. At the price level of 1989-90 an amount of Rs. 650 crores is likely to be spent on the new project. The state Government has sent proposal to the Central Government that Rs. 750 crores should be allowed to be raised by public borrowings during with Five Year Plan and Government should provide its approval for raising of funds by public borrowings during Ninth Five year Plan.

If Government is not in favour of granting its approval to such a proposal, then I request the Government to make additional allocation of funds for early completion of these projects.

(iv) Need to clear Pending Irrigation project of Rayalaseema region, Andhra Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI A. PRATAP SAI (Rajampet): Sir, many irrigation projects of the most backward

region of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh are pending for clearance with the Central Government since long. In Rayalaseema region consisting of four districts Cuddapah, Anantpur, Chittoor and Kurnool the rain-fall is below 600 mm in a year. Even something less than 600 mm. In the 19th Century the famine occurred once in five years. In the 20th Century, it occurred once in 3 years. Most of the village people are suffering for want of drinking water. Due to all the above stated reasons the main pending projects like Tilagu Ganga, Aualeru nagri Hindhri-Nova, should be cleared and if necessary financial assistance should be provided by the Union Government. The above said projects of taken up, will take care of another 25 to 30 lakh acres. The estimated cost of all the pending projects of Rayalaseema will be around Rs. 1700 crores. If all the projects are completed within 15 years, only then desertification can be stopped as reported by the Geological Survey of India. It will be sufficient to irrigate all the cultivable land of Andhra Pradesh say 287 lakh hectares with available water 3900 TMC would ultimately result in poverty alleviation, checking of desertification, drought and famine and would generate employment opportunities too.

(v) Need to Revive Ajmer Regiment and to Recruit more People from Ajmer-Merwara Area in Army

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Special privileges and priorities were given to recruit war-loving, fighter and brave youth of Ajmer district in Army during British regime. Rawats, Mehraos and meena castes were given special preference for recruitment in Merwara Battalion, Ajmer Battalion and granadiers. These Battalions were disintegrated without any reasons after Second World War and consequently the recruitment opportunities in defence force, to the people of district Ajmer have declined considerably as a result thereof. Due to piecemeal recruitment in different cores the promotional avenues for them have declined considerably. Previously Recruitment Melas