

Indian States like Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. If this project is implemented, the Natural Gas which is flared up in Bombay High could be transported to Kerala and a power plant with 1200 M.V. capacity could be set up in the State. The Kerala State Electricity Board has such a proposal. If this project is set up in the Malabar region of Kerala, it will be a great relief to the people of this region who are suffering due to low voltage. For this purpose a 1000 km. long pipeline will have to be laid. This can be laid parallel to the Konkan Railway which is under construction now. No separate survey need to be conducted for this purpose. I would request the Central Government to sanction this project which will benefit Kerala and the other two South Indian States.

[English]

(iii) **Need to upgrade the Chandigarh airport to an international airport**

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAMSAL (Chandigarh): Chandigarh is an important city that serves as the capital of both Punjab and Haryana. A large number of people from the region are settled abroad and have to often visit their relatives in India. Their travel to and from Delhi causes much inconvenience. With Chandigarh as an international airport and some international flights emanating from there to Middle East and Europe will be of great help to them besides helping the decision at Indian Gandhi International Airport. This will also encourage export of cut-flowers and other horticultural products from the region and attract largest number of tourists to Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.

I urge the Government to take necessary steps to upgrade the Chandigarh Airport.

[Translation]

(iv) **Need for early release of sanctioned funds to H.E.C., Ranchi, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government had sanctioned an amount of Rs. 63-64 crore during the Budget Session for improving the condition of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, but unfortunately the same has not been made available as a result of which, H.E.C. is facing hardship in its normal functioning. This Corporation is widely known as the 'Mother of Industries' in Asia and many small scale ancillary industries are attached to it. This industry provides livelihood to lakhs of families and nearly 20,000 people are directly employed in it.

The H.E.C. is finding it difficult to fulfill even the orders it has received. These orders will prove beneficial in the development of many units. Therefore, the Government is urged to make available immediately the funds sanctioned to H.E.C. and thus save this industry from ruination.

(v) **Need to declare Darbhanga-Forbesganj road in Bihar as National Highway**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the State of Bihar lags far behind, when it comes to the question of National Highways. At present, Bihar has 17 kilometres of road for a 100 square kilometer area, while the National average stands at 22 kilometers.

The 150 kilometer Darbhanga-Forbesganj Road remains to be declared a National Highway, as result of which development is not taking place in Bihar.