

[Sh. C.P. Mudala Giriappa]

galore to Dhanwar. This has created a serious concern in the minds of the people of Karnataka.

The length of this line between Bangalore and Tumkur is only 34 kms and the total expenditure on it does not exceed 30 crores of rupees.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take up this work during the current financial year and to complete it at the earliest.

(ii) **Need for immediate action to preserve wild life in the forests of Karnataka**

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS

(Mysore): Since March, 1990 more than seven tigers and three leopards have died due to radio-collaring and other reasons in the forests of Karnataka. Some research on tigers and leopards had been undertaken in Karnataka, which should be stopped immediately.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take immediate action to preserve the wild life in the forests of Karnataka and particulars to stop the radio-collaring of and research on tigers and leopards.

M.R. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You read the approved text only. That alone goes on record.

(iii) **Need to formulate an all India Granite Policy and to declare granite and major mineral**

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapur): Granite is mostly not used in India and is exported which is only five per cent in the highly competitive world market now. The main reason for this low export is the fact that there is no uniform policy regarding

leasing of quarries and its prices etc. Different States are having different policies. There is a vast difference even in the prices of value added granite items like finished products between one State and the other. This hampers the consistently growing inflow of foreign exchange. Actual producers, exporters including 100 per cent EOUs face tremendous hardship for want of uniform policy all over India as in the case of export of finished leather. In order to formulate an all India granite policy, it is essential to declare granite a major mineral. I urge upon the Government to declare granite a major mineral, with a view to augmenting the inflow of foreign exchange from granite export.

(iv) **Need for early Clearance to Vishakhapatnam Thermal Power Project**

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY (Warangal): The Central Electricity Authority has since techno-economically cleared 2x500 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 1560 crores. Though there is a good response from the private sector for this project, yet the Government has not entrusted the project to them so far. The State Government had recommended to the Centre for inclusion of this project in the Eighth Five Year Plan. But, so far no decision in this regard has been taken. This project is for the well-being of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The delay in clearing the project is causing great loss to the whole people of Andhra.

I urge upon the Central Government to take an early action in the matter.

(v) **Need to review the budget allocation to Bihar for the current annual plan**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr.