

Rs. 2 crores. According to the Department of Forestry, some rare species of very hard trees such as *Vayanav*, *irumpakam*, *Churuli*, white pine, white teak, *Akil* etc. which are already disappearing from our forest, are found in this area.

In 1976 there was a move to transfer this forest to the plantation corporation for planting rubber. But, then it was given up as it was then thought that such a move would affect the Kuttiadi project and cause deforestation. Now, there are reports that fresh moves are afoot at the Government level to revive the issue. This forest protects the reservoir from 5 Kms south of Peruvannamuzhi to Kakkazan dam from serious soil erosion. The experts are of the view that if this forest is destroyed the Peruvannamuzhi dam will get choked up with silt. An area of one km. of this forest has already been cleared. This has resulted in silt accumulating in the Peruvannamuzhi dam. If the forest near the reservoir is cleared, then silting will be complete. The Kuttiadi project, with an amount of Rs. 36 crores already having been spent, has quite often failed in providing water to the farmers. Silting in the dam would affect the existence of this vital project. This highlights the seriousness of the problem.

The Peruvannamuzhi forest range originally extended over 8000 hectares. A very substantial area has been cleared for the purpose of cultivation and now it is the remaining 500 hectares that are sought to be cleared. Many rare species of wild animals have become extinct due to clearance of this forest. The remaining animals may also disappear.

Thousands of acres of forest are being cleared in the Vazanand sector which had been declared as a wild life sanctuary. A major part of it has already been converted into eucalyptus plantation. Efforts are being made to convert the rest of the forest also into eucalyptus plantation. Protection of wild life remains on paper and the board that is set up in the forest.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to pay urgent attention to this issue and take steps to stop further deforestation and ensure the safety of Kuttiadi project.

(ii) SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO VARIOUS CENTRAL SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government schools are spread all over India.

Children of various religions, irrespective of caste and creed get together and gain knowledge. The books of these schools are printed in New Delhi and distributed to the various States which in turn give it to the Central schools located in various districts. Syllabus remains same all over India. The academic year for the schools is reaching the tail end and many of the students are going to complete their course within a couple of months. But it is a surprise that till date many of the Central schools of Tamil Nadu and other States have not got the prescribed books as it is reliably learnt that the books are not ready from the press. I like to point out that in Coimbatore, Central school students have not till date received some of the prescribed books. Headmasters of these schools return from Madras with a negative reply from the Central Education Authorities. This inordinate delay in getting the books has put the children to a lot of hardships. Many fear that they have to lose a year as they have to write the examination without going through the same. Like 'a stitch in time will save nine' a book in time will save many children from failing in the examination. This delay can be avoided by regionalising the printing in various States as many other States do have Central printing presses. There may not be any problem in implementing this as the syllabus is same all over India. There is a Central Government press in Madras and Periyanaikan Palayam of Coimbatore. The Government can give instructions to print the books in the above presses for Central schools so that unnecessary delay can be avoided and transport expenditure can be saved as economy is more vital at this juncture for our country.

(iii) NEED FOR A POST AND TELEGRAPH DIVISION AT BHAWANIPATNA IN ORISSA

\*\*SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi): The people of Kalahandi district of Orissa are facing many difficulties due to the lack of adequate telephonic connections. Ours is a backward district. The present telephone service to the district headquarter town Bhawanipatna is far from satisfactory. I regret to say that the telephone line of Bhawanipatna remains out of order most of the time. Even the telephone subscribers of this town are finding it extremely difficult to make distant calls.

As regards the other blocks of this district, the telephone connections have not been provided to Sinapali, Goamunda and

[Shri Rasabehari Behera]

Tauamul Rampur. There is no telephone connection between Nuapara which is an important sub-division and Bhawanipatna, the district headquarter. The MPs, MLAs and other high officials of these districts wait for hours together after booking the calls to Bhubaneswar and Delhi. Most of the time they feel awkward and helpless when they fail to send the urgent message to the State capital.

The people of this district have suffered a lot in the year 1979-80, due to the unprecedented drought situation. Due to the lack of the telephonic facilities it was found extremely difficult to maintain co-ordination in relief operations. The local volunteers, politicians and the high officials could not carry on the relief operation work in September 1980 when the State was reeling under the furious flood. The Government could not act immediately due to the lack of tele-communication facilities. Every one is aware that these floods have resulted in loss of life, property and cattle wealth. We could neither send the message to Bhubaneswar about the flood situation of the district, nor were we able to receive message from the Centre. The relief distribution work was hampered to a great extent due to the lack of communication facilities.

In view of this, I urge upon the Government to open a Post & Telegraphs Division at Bhawanipatna and to provide adequate telephone lines to all the blocks and sub-division headquarters.

(iv) POSTS AND TELEGRAPH SYSTEM IN WEST BENGAL

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly): The Post and Telegraph system is on the verge of total break-down in many parts of the country and particularly in West Bengal circle. In the R.M.S. Offices, huge number of letters have accumulated. In the Post Offices of Calcutta area only no less than one and a half-lakh letters await delivery. In the suburban areas a large number of telephone exchanges remain out of order for a long time. A large number of Telegrams and Money Orders could not be delivered for want of adequate staff. Moreover, in many cases, the equipments are also out of order. The overall situation in respect of Post and Telegraph at Calcutta is alarmingly bad. While Calcutta only needs about 65 vans for Railway Mail Service, there are at present

only 20 to 22 such vans available for the whole state of West Bengal. For want of necessary number of vans, parcels, book-posts and even post cards and postal stamps are not reaching the suburban and rural areas.

C.T.O. had given notice that they would not receive messages from people for Telegram. C.T.O. sends, on an average, about 5000 telegram messages daily and receives about 4,000 such messages. But such telegrams take 10 to 12 days, sometimes more than that, to reach the concerned people. The employees of the Post and Telegraphs Department have to face the wrath of aggrieved people in such cases. Thousands of West Bengal people are suffering as a result of delay in despatch and delivery of Money-orders. The major reason behind this alarming situation is lack of adequate staff. There, the number of approved posts needs be about 24,500 while the current staff strength is only 16,500. In the West Bengal Circles of Telephones also, about 5,000 people have to do the job of 6,000 or more.

The Central Government is urged to immediately look into the above matter and make arrangements to save the situation by providing adequate staff and necessary equipments and arrangements.

(v) REPORTED BEATING UP OF EMPLOYEES OF POST AND TELEGRAPH CIRCLE OFFICE AT BHUBANESHWAR BY ARMED POLICEMEN

15.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE (Bombay North Central): The news appearing in the *Times of India* dated 27-11-80 states that the Armed Policemen entered the post and telegraph circle office at Bhubaneswar and started beating the employees, inflicting bleeding injuries to the Superintendent of Post Office and ten others.

It further states that policemen had gone berserk. Many cycles in the stand had been beaten out of the shape by lathis, window panes were shattered and took away wrist watches of the employees.

The General Manager of Telecommunication and Director of Post Offices have met the Chief Secretary in this regard.

I would request the Home Minister to make a statement.