

(Shri Era Ambarasu)

I, therefore, urge the hon'ble Defence Minister to take necessary steps to ameliorate the service conditions of the teachers of Sainik Schools by directly bringing the Sainik Schools either under the Ministry of Defence or Ministry of Education.

(iii) Steps needed to narrow down the gap between irrigation potential created and its utilisation

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) :

The Irrigation, besides water management is the main ingredient for the development of modern agriculture. Rightly, the Government, both at the Centre and the States, have had stressed its need in our planning process to help improve the food production in the country bringing more land under irrigation.

But there exists a wide gap between the irrigation potential created and that are being actually used for the benefit of the Nation. The gap was 4.2 million hectares till the end of 1980 but now, further accentuated to 7 million hectares in spite of the Government's assurances to minimise the gap.

To improve the utilisation, no doubt the serious attempts are being made by the Government by adoption of more command area Development Projects to help utilise the irrigation potential but for the unsatisfactory and slow implementations, desired results failed in this direction. For an instance, in Orissa, Salandi Command Area Development Project is in operation since last 12 years but no substantial progress has been made so far, because no back up of measures, such as consolidation of holdings, land levellings etc, to have field channels for the optimum utilisation of water available, are there.

Since the enormous amounts, labour and time have been spent for creation of irrigation potential, utmost importance in the interest of the nation is to

see that whatever the difficulties are or, whosoever is responsible, must be done away with for its optimum use for the people.

(iv) Help to Goldsmiths

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) :

सभापति महोदय, नियम 377 के अधीन अद्विलम्बनीय लोकमहत्व के प्रश्न की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

स्वर्णकार भी भारत के नागरिक हैं। उनका मुख्य व्यवसाय सोने चांदी के आभूषणों की खरीद और बिक्री था। मगर 1963 में जब स्वर्ण नियन्त्रण अधिनियम लागू हुआ उस समय करीब 17 लाख से अधिक स्वर्णकार विस्थापित एवम बेकार हो गए क्योंकि 14 कैरेट के सोने का जेवर बनाना उनके लिए कठिन हो गया। कुछ समय के लिए भारत सरकार ने उन्हें छोटी-मोटी राहत दी पर वह अपर्याप्त थी, जैसा कि बिहार सरकार द्वारा गटित मुं गेरी लाल पिछड़े वर्ग आयोग ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में चर्चा की थी। उनकी समस्याओं के सम्बन्ध में तथा उन्हें राहत देने हेतु बराबर ही सरकार के पास इस प्रश्न को रखा जा रहा है परन्तु उत्तर असतोषजनक मिलता है। स्वर्णकारों की अपनी न्यायोचित मांगों के साथ-साथ सोने चांदी के बढ़ते मूल्य को नियंत्रित करने की भी मांग है क्योंकि उस ऊंची कीमत में गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वाले, बन्धी आश्रित वाले तथा मध्यम वर्ग लोग जेवर बनवाने में असमर्थ हैं।

अतः वित्त मन्त्री जी से मेरा अनुरोध है कि वह भारत के स्वर्णकारों की समस्याओं तथा उनकी न्यायोचित मांगों के समाधान में योगदान देकर उन्हें भुखमरी से

बचाने का प्रयास करें। उनके व्यवसाय के सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार को सोचना है, जैसे बुनकर, बीड़ी मजदूर, इलायची व्यवसाय आदि में लगे लोगों के लिए सरकार चिंतित है। स्वर्णकारों को अपने कारोबार को चलाने के लिए बैंकों से आसान शर्तों पर ऋण दिए जायें। ऐसा करने से उनके पूर्वार्थ में मदद मिलेगी।

आशा है, वित्त मन्त्री का ध्यान भारत के इन अभागे कारीगरों एवम शिल्पकारों की दयनीय स्थिति की और आकृष्ट होगा।

(v) Need to check the growth of weed (Eupatorium), an environmental hazard to Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the unchecked growth of an obnoxious and exotic weed is posing threat to the ecology of the Simlipal forest and peripheral areas in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa.

The weed 'eupatorium' is locally known as "Assam Lata". It spread to the deforested regions of West Bengal and then to Simlipal and Ganasika hill regions of Orissa. The weed has also infested the Chandaka reserve forest where an elephant project is being currently implemented. The ecologically hazardous plant had established itself in the hilly areas of Orissa where large scale deforestation had exposed the soil to sufficient overhead light. The weed has no utility. When cut and stored it is reduced to powder and its poisonous leaves and flowers have no fodder value. The creeping weed also deprives the grazing cattle and wild animals of free movement. The wood remains unaffected by forest fire because of its thick and wide spread growth.

Though this exotic weed has been spreading very fast in Orissa forests since last two years, the State government or the centre have not taken

any steps check its growth. Unless immediate steps are taken to check the spread it will create serious environmental hazard in the entire forest ranges in Orissa. Therefore I request the Government of India to realise to gravity of the problem and take urgent and effective steps to save the valuable forest wealth by destroying further growth of this exotic weed.

(vi) Conversion of Rupsa-Bonginiposhi narrow gauge line into broad gauge line

SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU (Mayurbhanj) : The Railway line from Rupsa to Banginiposhi was constructed in 1905 and from Baripeda to Banginiposhi in 1920 to connect former princely State of Mayurbhanj to Calcutta-Madras main line. Since then no modernisation has taken place. As the traffic potential of this narrow gauge line is rated high and it is considered that once this line is converted into broad gauge with extension upto a point connecting the main line between Howrah-Bombay somewhere between Dhalbhumgarh and Chakulia or at a point between Rairangpur to Gorunashishani and Tatanagar-Badampahor, it would be quite useful and it will have an increased capacity to carry the traffic that is being offered for transportation from various places. This would reduce the distance between coastal Orissa and South India. As is well known, Mayurbhanj is predominantly a tribal district and its economy largely depends on the efficient functioning of this narrow gauge system. But unfortunately Railway Administration has not taken adequate steps for implementing the conversion programme of the above narrow gauge line. Over the decades no new engines or wagons have been brought and the narrow gauge system is neglected. This has affected movement of passengers and goods traffic including mineral and forest products.

As such, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to expedite the programme