

[Shri K. T. Koshalram]

source of our country. Although 1440 MAF of water flows annually in the country's river systems, hardly 200 MAF is actually being used, the rest flowing down waste into the sea. Consequently, the country is suffering from floods—droughts—floods syndrome and relief operations have become a heavy recurring burden on the country's economy. The Sixth Plan envisages the creation of an irrigation potential of 13.7 million hectares. The achievement in 1980-81 is 2.28 million hectares and the anticipated achievement for 1981-82 is 2.45 million hectares. In the remaining three years, of the Sixth Plan, unless effective steps are taken to harness the waters that go waste into the sea, the creation of irrigation potential of 13.7 million hectares will not be possible. Presently only 14% of the available waters is being used for irrigation purposes. The recurring loss on annual flood control and drought relief measures is approximately of the order of Rs. 1000 crores in the loss of crops and fertility of the soil throughout the country, besides the loss of human lives and cattle and other movable property. The River Boards Act was passed in 1956 and till to-day no river board could be formed as the concerned States did not agree to their formation. The Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 has not solved many of the water disputes which are holding up many projects. The River Basin Commissions could not also be constituted. In these circumstances, I demand that the rivers should be declared immediately as national assets so that the Government of India could take mandatory action in the utilisation of river waters going presently waste into the sea.

(iv) BETTER UTILISATION OF CAPACITY OF ORDNANCE CLOTHING FACTORY AT AVADI NEAR MADRAS.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central): The ordinance clothing factory at Avadi near Madras was set up in 1961 mainly for the production of parachutes. Later on, this factory is undertaking only a few Brake Parachutes besides other garments.

Substantial quantities of woollen socks are still being purchased in open market for defence use. Though these items

are manufactured in the ordnance factories at Kanpur and Shajahanpur, a similar line could be opened at Avadi also which would curtail the open market purchase.

All the cotton vests now being purchased from private traders could also be manufactured at the ordnance factory at Avadi where the technical know-how and trained personnel are available in plenty. Setting up of a new line of production of Cotton Vests will definitely provide substantial employment potential at a lesser cost.

The Ordnance Clothing Factories are not receiving the due attention of hon. Defence Minister like other segments of Defence Department. There are lots of anomalies in the piece rate given to workers, supply of tools, promotions, inadequate supervisory cadre, wanting job clerical staff, and dearth of staff quarters for the workers etc.

I request the Hon. Minister to look personally into the functioning of the Ordnance Clothing Factory, particularly, underutilised Avadi Factory and take appropriate action immediately to the betterment of the Ordnance factory at Avadi.

(v) DELAY IN ELECTRIFICATION OF THE VIJAYAWADA—BALLARSHA RAILWAY LINE IN ANDHRA PRADESH.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI (Vijayawada) : The Vijayawada--Ballarsha railway line with 454 RKM is among the lines already approved by the Government for electrification at an estimated cost of Rs. 18 crores. In November last year, high priority was accorded to the project and tenders for executing the work were called for and already an amount of rupees five crores has been spent in civil works of the project. As per the tentative programme, the OHE contract is to be awarded in March-April, this year.

Now, according to present reports, the Vijayawada-Ballarsha electrification project has been changed to one of lower priority and the work on it has been slowed down. The Vijayawada-Ballarsha

line is an important segment of the South-Central Railway and there is every need for the early implementation of this project.

Ballarsha is situated close to a coal-belt and forest area and is a transit place for the movement of coal and teak and other varieties of wood. Moreover, it provides a link to Vijayawada, a most important railway junction in the country besides being a commercial centre in the midst of Andhra Pradesh. At Vijayawada are located a thermal station, a wagon workshop, heavy engineering and automobile works, an industrial estate, wholesale markets for cloth and cement factories.

The Vijayawada-Madras railway-line has already been electrified.

The Vijayawada-Ballarsha electrification project should be expedited as it fulfils a longfelt need of the people of the area.

(vi) NEED FOR A WHITE PAPER ON NATIONAL DRUG POLICY PRODUCTION TARGETS AND THE STEPS TO PREVENT DRUG FAMINE IN THE COUNTRY

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh) : Under Rule 377 I make the following statement of urgent public importance.

The recent trends in Drug production are rather disturbing. There is ample evidence that the drug policy of the Government is faulty. With consumption of Drugs going up every year, in tune with increased population and extended medical facilities down to the rural base the declining production trends are assuming alarming proportion.

Despite the loud claims by the Petroleum and Chemical Ministry that drug production is going up, the factual position is quite otherwise. The production of essential bulk drugs and life-saving medicines is showing a marked decline month by month. The production monitoring cell is well aware of this trend.

There is a noticeable decline in all major categories of drugs like antibiotics, sulpha, vitamins, analgesics, anti-TB, anti-malaria, anti-cardiovascular, anti-anaesthetics, anti-filarial, anti-asthmatics and many others. For example, during the first 9 months of 1981-82, the production figures of some of the above essential and life saving categories as compared to the previous year are : penicillin dropped from 340 MMU to Rs. 250 MMU, sulphadimidine was only 240 tons against previous production of 445 tons, vitamin B-12 was only 115 kg. against 190 kg; aspirin was only 640 tons against 890 tons in Steroids, vital for family planning, the production of prenisolone was only 940 kg. against previous figure of 1425 kg; the main Anti-TB drug PAS and salts was only 180 tons against previous 405 tons; the essential cardiovascular drug digoxin was only 2.10 kg. against 7.35 kg. and so on.

This is an alarming situation. This will lead to steep price-rise; hoarding, black-market, heavy imports and losses to the manufacturing units. The fixation of prices, the supply of raw and basic bulk drugs, the constraints on production, the delay in fixing the price of the end-drug and total lack of quick, efficient, monitoring agency are some of the causes for this serious decline in production. By the middle of this year a serious situation will develop if these essential drug production does not rise before the monsoon season.

I call upon the Government to come before the House with a white paper on National Drug Policy production targets and the steps taken to prevent Drug famine in the country. A bold, pragmatic and result-oriented decision is called for to shake up the department from its red-tape and time-consuming administration habits.