

points, as also sources of many drinking water supply were submerged by the formation of Gobind Sagar Lake.

Much worse was the fate of those oustees who settled in Haryana as even upto this time they have not been given any proprietary rights and the allotments made to them over 20 years ago. The proprietary rights of the land allotted to Bhakra Dam oustees are vested with the Government of Haryana, so the oustees have been denied the developmental loans and other facilities advanced by the Government to the farmers. As more than 70% of the Bhakra Dam oustees have been allotted less than 5 acres of land each, the chances of their earnings the livelihood or standing on their own feet in any other way are far from bright, much more so without credit facilities like loans from the banks and other subsidies.

The Petition Committee of the 6th Lok Sabha in their 10th Report had also recommended to the Central Government to take up the question of the grant of proprietary rights to the Bhakra Dam oustees with the Government of Haryana. Nothing, however, has been done so far, even after the passage of nearly three years after the report of the Committee was presented to the august House.

Hence, the Central Government should come to the rescue of these oustees and prevail upon the Haryana Government to grant the proprietary rights to them. The Government should also ensure the provision of other facilities like the sanction of bank loans and other subsidies, even as the process of conferring these rights is taken in hand.

I request the Central Government, particularly, the Ministry of Energy, to intervene with Haryana Govern-

ment for rescuing the oustees from their present unfortunate situation.

(vi) NEED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE SALKIA AND PORT UNIT OF THE HOOGHLY DOCKING AND ENGINEERING CO.

SHRI AJIT BAG (Serampore) :  
Sir, I am drawing the attention of the House to the question of nationalisation of the Salkia and Port Unit of the Hooghly Docking and Engineering Company, which has been pending for more than last three years. Already a number of representations have been made by the Union, West Bengal Government and Members of Parliament to the concerned Ministry without any result.

It is understood that the case is lying before the Union Government for a final decision. But, I want to mention it here that the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India has virtually stopped giving financial support and the functioning of the company is coming to a serious halt. Payment of salaries and wages to the workers and officials would be stopped.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to issue urgent instructions to the IRCI to continue to give financial support to the company till the question of its nationalisation is finally decided by the Government.

I demand that the Finance Minister make a statement in the House in this regard and finalise the nationalisation of the said company.

13 hrs.

(vii) STEPS FOR EARLY COMPLETION OF THERMAL POWER STATION AT KANTI, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR)

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Bihar in general and

[Smt. Kishori Sinha]

north Bihar in particular is suffering from power shortage. Presently load-shedding is being resorted to even in Patna. Farms and industries are being hit by the power shortage.

In order to meet the requirement of power, in North Bihar, Government started construction of a Thermal Power Station of 220 M. W. at Kanti, Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

It was announced that the Power station would be completed by 1983. But the tardy and indifferent manner in which the construction is proceeding, is causing apprehension and anxiety that the power station would not be completed within the stipulated period. It is more likely to go even beyond 1984.

The Minister of Energy had assured that he had advised the State Electricity Board to provide employment to local people particularly unskilled labour on a preferential basis. I have received complaints that this policy is not being implemented with the result that there is a great discontent in that area among the people. I am afraid if preference is not given to local people even for unskilled work, the situation may become tense.

I would, therefore, request the Government to appoint a body to monitor the pace of progress of construction in order that the project is completed within the stipulated time.

Secondly, I would appeal to Government to ensure the implementation of the policy of giving preference to local people in at least unskilled jobs.

(viii) **NEED TO RESTORE THE FACILITY OF JEWEL LOANS TO THE RURAL PEOPLE OF TAMIL NADU.**

**SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Periyakulam):** I wish to

invite the attention of the Minister for Finance and Banking to the following facts and request him to take immediate steps for the benefit of the rural folks in Tamil Nadu.

Recently, unprecedented events have happened in the State of Tamil Nadu. The cooperative banks and agricultural credit societies have all of a sudden suspended the sanction of jewel loans. The worst affected on account of this move of the Government if Tamil Nadu is the rural people, particularly small farmers, planters and other businessmen, since there is no private finance to which they can have recourse in dire circumstances. The State Government is aware that the jewel loan is of great utility to the public and yet has opted for the suspension of the issue of loans by cooperatives and agricultural societies at a time when farmers do not get adequate returns from the land. The Nationalised banks in Tamil Nadu have added their pinch of salt by steadfastly following the cooperative banks' move in the matter of jewel loans. The tall claims of implementation of the 20-point programme are best found only on paper in Tamil Nadu. It is disheartening to note that instead of providing additional assistance to the poor and needy, this vital source of help has been withdrawn.

The gravity of the situation can be best understood when it is pointed out that all the private sources of credit dried up as a consequence of the wiping out of the debts of the poor by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1976. Now the Madras Central Cooperative Bank and its 18 urban affiliated branches in the city of Madras have stopped issuing the jewel loans from the last week of February, 1982. The annual disbursement of the loans used to be around Rs. 20 crores. The Reserve Bank of India is reported to have issued directives to the effect that jewel loans should not be