

known, no remedial measures are found out. As a result, huge quantity of fish die every day. Due to this, fisherman are on the verge of starvation. Even though the Kerala Government is giving free ration and financial assistance to the affected families, financial assistance from the Central Government to Kerala State has not yet been extended. This fish epidemic should be considered as a natural calamity and necessary help should be rendered to Kerala by the Central Government.

- (iv) **Need for early clearance to Rajasthan Government's proposal seeking financial assistance from IDA for improving water supply and sewerage in various cities of the State.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan has always been facing acute shortage of pure drinking water. Ramgarh lake, which supplies water to Jaipur, has dried up and the water level in wells had gone down by 10 to 15 metres. As a result, the residents of the State capital living on upper floors of the buildings do not get water at all and those living on ground floor get water only for two hours in the entire day. In Jodhpur sometimes the people get water for one hour after three days. The situation in Kota, Bikaner, Udaipur and Alwar is no better.

Due to the rising population, industrialisation and transportation, the sewerage system of these six cities are also not working properly. In lack of adequate clearance and treatment, the cities are stinking and getting polluted. For improving the water supply and sewerage in these six cities of Rajasthan, the State Government had sent a proposal to the Central Government on 29-6-1990 for seeking financial assistance worth Rs. 514 crore and 60 lakh from IDA but it is still pending with the Centre.

I would request that immediate action

should be taken to provide the desired loan from the World Bank for the above said scheme.

- (v) **Need to set up a sugar factory at Pupari in Sitamarhi district, Bihar**

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a long-standing demand for setting up of a sugar factory in Pupari block under the most backward district Sitamarhi in Bihar. Agitations were also held in this regard. The former Minister has already announced setting up of a sugar factory in Pupari and may be the Government has already conducted a survey in this regard. Due to lack of proper arrangements, the farmers of Pupari, Sursand, Parihar, Sonevarsa, Bazpatti and Runni Saidpur and Nanpur blocks of Sitamarhi district and Darbhanga district and Madhvapur, Benipatti and Jale blocks of Madhubani district crush sugarcane in a crusher. As a result, the entire crop of sugarcane is not crushed in time. Due to which, the sugarcane dries up in the field. Every year, the farmers had to incur heavy losses due to this and it dampens their morale.

Therefore, I would request the Government that in view of the public interest, a sugar factory in the Centre of all these blocks, i.e. at Pupari should be set up.

- (vi) **Need to provide special duty allowance to postal employees of North Eastern region as is being provided to Central Government employees in that region**

[*English*]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards treatment meted out to Postal, Railway Mail Service and the Mail

[Sh. Uddhab Barman]

Motor Service Employees of North-Eastern Region. They are on strike since 15th November in protest against non-implementation of Government orders granting Special Duty Allowance to Central Government Employees of the North-Eastern Region in their case.

While the telecommunication department have decided to grant the said allowance as per Central Administrative Tribunal's orders, to their employees, but the Postal Department is not implementing the order in respect of their employees, viz. RMS, Postal and the Mail Motor Service. Though Postal and Telecom Departments are under the control of the same Ministry, the Postal employees are being unreasonably deprived of the allowance. This is against all canons of natural justice. This has led to strike by employees which is causing tremendous inconvenience to the people of North-Eastern Region as well as to the people of other parts of the country.

I urge upon the Government to intervene and ensure that postal employees of NE Region are given their legitimate dues and the unfortunate strike is called off.

- (viii) **Need to revitalise India's Power Sector and ensure continued funding of Farakka Project in West Bengal by World Bank and Asian Development Bank.**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, I want to bring the following matter under Rule 377.

Due to unprecedented financial crunch, the West Bengal Government has resorted to unannounced cuts in plan expenditure which has virtually affected all the public utility services. The West Bengal State have received only about 27.5 per cent on an

average of the funds earmarked for them under the 'Rs. 1,733.39 crore' State Plan Outlay.

The Asian Development Bank which had agreed to fund the Farakka Thermal Power Project of the NTPC estimated to cost \$ 375 million has now reportedly withheld funding for the project after severely criticising the poor performance of India's power sector. Both the A.D.B. and the World Bank have urged the need for revitalising and re-energising the power sector. I urge upon the Government to initiate necessary reforms in this sector and ensure that the funding by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for the Farakka Project is not withheld and the project is undertaken vigorously and completed in time.

- (viii) **Need to confer ownership rights of forest land to Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat**

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH (Bharuch): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of tribals in Gujarat have forest land under their occupation since 1940. But they have not been given the ownership rights of that land, even though they have toiled hard to make that land fertile and increased the crop production. The State Government had promised to give ownership rights to those tribals. In Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, a policy was formulated to give ownership rights for the forest land which was trespassed up to 1970. In Gujarat this policy has been formulated to to 1967. But it is not being implemented properly due to which the tribals are not getting proper benefits from the Government schemes.

Therefore, I would request the Government to confer ownership rights of forest land on the tribals by relaxing the provisions of the Forest Act.