

have held the levy of cess on mining royalty beyond the competence of the State Government and have directed refund of the cess collected along with interest thereon from the date of judgement of the Orissa High Court i.e. 22-12-1989. On this account State Government may have to refund a sum of about Rs. 100 crores and further an amount of Rs. 171.75 or say Rs. 172 crores has been estimated in the budget of 1991-92, towards collection of "cess on Mining Royalty" including the arrears pending from 1989. The cess already collected from 22-12-1989 to 31-3-1991 and the interest thereon can be protected through enactment of the "Cess on major minerals (Validation and termination) Bill, 1991" which is under consideration of the Central Government. The required central legislation to legitimise collection of cess already made may be enacted immediately in order to prevent further deterioration in the State resources.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to immediately amend this Cess on major minerals (Validation and termination) Bill, 1991, so that the State Government should not lose heavily. Otherwise, it will not be possible for it to carry on developmental works in the State.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT (Balaghat) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make a humble submission that people living in the Adivasi areas of Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh are dying in large numbers for want of basic medical and drinking water facilities. Thousands of people have died earlier also and many are in their death beds. The State Government is totally indifferent towards the prevention of the spreading of epidemic (Interruptions) I request that a Committee be constituted to inquire into the matter.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH PANWAR (Kairana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the problem of acute water shortage in three districts of

Western Uttar Pradesh, namely Meerut, Muzaffar Nagar and Kanpur. There is a sharp fall in the water level of the Eastern Yamuna Canal originates from a place called Tajewala and what's more the water of the Western Yamuna Canal is diverted to Haryana as a result of which the distribution of water is imbalance. Uttar Pradesh is not getting its due share. It is a predominantly agricultural area and soil is highly fertile. The water shortage has created a grave crisis. I request the Union Government to urge upon the U.P. and Haryana Governments to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution and correct the present imbalance.

[English]

SHRI N. MURUGESAN (Karur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to bring to your notice that more than four hundred and odd tiny small-scale units created out of Prime Minister's self-employment programme, manufacturing high density polyethylene monofilament yarn used for making fishing nets and mosquito nets throughout the country, mostly (eighty per cent) in Tamil Nadu, especially in my constituency, that is, Karur, have been closed as a result of imposition of new excise levy of Rs. 9.25 per kilogram, which results in joblessness for more than ten thousand workers, mostly women. In the same manner, due to sudden rise in yarn rates by twenty per cent, thousands of handloom weavers are thrown out of job. This is due to export of cotton.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to repeal the imposed excise duty of Rs. 9.25 per kilogram so as to save the souls of poor and down-trodden employed in this sector and also show consideration by yarn price reduction and by stoppage of cotton export.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Munger) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards Munger district of Bihar. It has become very necessary to build a bridge across River Ganges, at Munger.