

Chandausi, Manpur, Bela, Tekari, Fatehpur, Wazirganj, Atri and Khijra Sarai etc. Blocks and will generate 30 MW of electricity, completion of this project will benefit more than fifty lakh farmers of Gaya and its twelve border districts.

12.41 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

Construction of Mohane Reservoir Project could not be started till now. I, in the public interest, request the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources through this House that the construction of this project should be started immediately so that farmers of this region could be benefitted and presently the industries which are unable to prosper because of power shortage prosper with the availability of power and the local people are provided with jobs.

(ii) **Need to allocate adequate LPG to Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu to clear the Backlog**

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, the common people of Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu are facing a lot of difficulties and inconvenience for a long time due to acute shortage of LPG connections. The waiting list is very long almost in all the gas agencies there. In some agencies, consumers are not getting opportunities to get gas connections even seven years after registration. This District is declared as cent per cent literacy district. In most of the families there, both males and females are employed. They are the worst affected people due to the long waiting list. Moreover, Kanyakumari District is located in between Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats. The coastal, tribal and other people of mountainous areas need to be protected giving special attention in the allotment of gas connections.

I urge upon the Government to allot adequate number of LPG connections to the gas agencies of Kanyakumari District so as to enable them to clear the prevailing long waiting list.

(iii) **Need to increase the number of Flights from Calcutta to Tezpur**

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Sir, the Headquarters of Sonitpur district in Assam, Tezpur occupies an important place in Indian mythology. Agnigarh hill in the heart of Tezpur was the fortified abode of Usha, the bewitching maiden of King Banasura. Legend has it that Usha fell in love with the picture of debonair Aniruddha of Dwaraka, son of Krishna, painted by Chitrlekha. Usha's bosom companion, Chitrlekha managed to get Aniruddha flown over from Dwaraka to Tezpur in Krishna's Pushpak Rath. Aniruddha was instantly smitten by passionate love for

Usha and having tied the proverbial nuptial knot, both had flown back by the same Pushpak aircraft from Tezpur to Dwaraka and lived happily ever after.

Against this glorious aviation mythological background, it is highly lamentable that Tezpur does not have regular air services even on the verge of 21st century.

Presently, there are only two flights a week by Indian Airlines from Calcutta to Tezpur and Imphal to Calcutta after the NEPC flights from Calcutta to Guwahati and Tezpur were discontinued. There is an imperative need to increase the number of flights to at least five per week from Calcutta to Tezpur by Indian Airlines alone or by IAC and another private airlines together.

Apart from nearly 100 tea gardens in Sonitpur district and vicinity of Arunachal Pradesh, the Headquarters and Cantonments of 4 Corps of the Army, Indian Air Force bases for fighter and transport squadrons, Zonal Head Offices of Border Roads, MES and Assam Rifles and the Central University were located in or near Tezpur. The stimulus provided by greater frequency of flights will generate more than adequate passenger traffic, a part of which is now getting diverted to Guwahati.

I would, therefore, fervently urge the Civil Aviation Ministry to take necessary effective measures to increase the number of flights to Tezpur from Calcutta at least to five per week, if not daily and to construct a separate civil enclave within IAF's present airport complex for smooth management of passenger traffic.

(iv) **Need to shift LPT installed in Shekhpura, Bihar to a Government building.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman Sir, an L.P.T. has been installed in Shekhpura, Bihar. The building in which this L.P.T. has been installed is a private one and is insecure. Keeping in view its safety, District Officer of Shekhpura has written to Director, Doordarshan, Patna for installing it in a Government building. I have also written several letters for shifting it to a Government building from the private building but no action has since been taken in this regard.

Central Government is, therefore, requested that L.P.T. may be installed in a Government building by shifting it from the private building.

(v) **Need to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Indore, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indore of Madhya Pradesh is a down of art and industries. Indore and its nearby areas has given us several artists of world fame. Several cultural organisations are cooperating in promoting Indian arts. The culture of Malwa is known since old ages for its own specialities. From political angle too Indore has got

its own special status in Madhya Pradesh. In view of above facts a Doordarshan Kendra should have been set up in Indore much earlier the building of Indore Doordarshan is almost complete. In view of linking the whole Central India region, which is an important part of Madhya Pradesh from every angle, with the rest of India I request the Central Government to start transmission of Doordarshan Programmes from Indore Kendra. By installing all the required equipments there. A Metro Channel should also be started in Indore. This Indore Kendra will cover the whole Central India as well as the adjoining areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

**(vi) Need to set up a separate Vananchal State in Bihar.**

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a separate State for Vananchal (Jharkhand) in Bihar is being demanded since 1938. This Vananchal region comprises of 18 Districts and it has got 81 legislative assembly and 14 Lok Sabha constituencies. Not being a separate State development has not taken place though this region is full of mineral and forest resources. It differs from rest of Bihar as far as language, culture, customs and living of people are concerned. During Mughal and the British rule too this region had its own administrative set up. That is why Governor's House was made at Ranchi.

Central Government is, therefore, requested to set up a separate State of Vananchal at an early date.

**(vii) Need to ensure availability of adequate currency in Banks particularly in Western Orissa**

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, the branches of Banks in the State of Orissa particularly Western Orissa are not being supplied with the required currency by the Reserve Bank of India, Bhubneswar (RBI), for the past several months. RBI is not meeting even 25% of the indents placed by the Currency Chest branches with the result several Bank branches are not in a position to meet the demands for cash from the public and Government in time. It is gathered that the position is not so acute in other States.

The RBI has also resorted to issuing inter chest remittance orders on branches knowing very well that the supplying branches do not have adequate cash to comply with the orders only to dispose of the banks knocking at their doors. There is a wide gap between the amount of currency indented and the currency supplied. Bank branches are spending huge amounts on transportation of small amounts of cash from one place to the other to tide over the difficulties to a small extent temporarily but the expenses are not reimbursed

by the RBI. Such frequent remittances involve enormous security risk.

Currently the currency requirement of SBI alone for next one month (*i.e.* up to March, 1997) is Rs. 1000 crore for which necessary indents have been placed with RBI. It is understood that RBI is not having any plans to supply this much cash before March, 1997 with the result the public is likely to face undue hardship and Government payments, salaries to workers and grounding of Government sponsored schemes and loan disbursements are likely to be affected.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter...*(Interruptions)\**

**(viii) Need to start work on Hubli-Dharwar Bypass, Karnataka**

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, the Government of India has called for tenders for Hubli-Dharwar by-pass road in Karnataka under Build on Lease Transport.

Though the tenders have been called for long back, but no tender has been accepted so far. On account of this, loss is being caused to Government. Therefore I, request the Union Government to accept the tenders immediately so that the work may be taken up early.

12.53 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT APPELLATE  
AUTHORITY ORDINANCE, 1997

AND

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT APPELLATE  
AUTHORITY BILL, 1997

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up item now. 12 and 13 together. The time allotted for this is one hour.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests has brought in a National Environment Appellate Authority, Bill. The hon. President is given the trouble of promulgating ordinances time and again when there has not been a gap of more than a month and a quarter between the last session and the present one. Not a single ordinance was issued during the last session

\* Not Recorded.