

Despite repeated assurances from the Government that there would be no retrenchment and no closure, proposals to close 14 NTC mills and amalgamation of 49 mills into 21 which will result in unemployment of about 65,000 NTC workers are afoot.

The budget has suddenly withdrawn from the budgetary support of NTC to a large extent. This action forced many NTC mills to short various raw materials. Eighty per cent production activities in many NTC mills have been stopped and workers are paid for sitting idle for want of adequate cotton supply. This will push the losses still further for no fault of workers.

I urge upon the Government to take steps to stop further deterioration of NTC mills. Efforts should be made to ensure maximum utilisation of their production capacity.

**(iii) Need to clear all Pending Power Projects of Karnataka**

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Karnataka is reeling under severe power crisis. Very often power cuts to the tune of 70 per cent for high tension industries, 60 per cent to the low tension industries and up to 50 per cent for agricultural and domestic consumers is imposed. The new industrial units seldom venture to set up the factories in Karnataka for want of power supply. They are being asked to have captive power generation or to diesel generators.

Therefore, there is urgent need to augment power supply to Karnataka by clearing all the pending projects immediately. Sufficient funds must be made available for the Mangalore Super Thermal Power Project which is supposed to generate 2240 M. W. of power by 1996.

**(iv) Need for early approval to the Construction of Bridge on the River Ujhar on Highway No. 19 in Jhalawar district, Rajasthan**

SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE (Jhalawar): Sir, there has been an inordinate

delay in the construction of a bridge on river Ujhar on Highway No. 19 in the district of Jhalawar of Rajasthan State. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 78.00 lakhs when it was proposed for Central assistance under Road/Bridges works of Inter-State importance. The location of the proposed bridge is on the border of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Construction of this bridge will provide an all-weather route between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and will provide connection to Indore, an important commercial and cultural city of Madhya Pradesh. A number of backward districts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan can be directly provided with road communication with Indore. This will also facilitate the movement of goods to Indore which will ultimately give a boost to trade between both the States.

The proposal was submitted by the Rajasthan Government to the Centre in 1987 and it is since awaiting approval of the Government. Hence the construction of the proposed Ujhar bridge project should be considered as an important inter-State bridge, as the project will go a long way in the growth of the backward areas in the two States. It should, therefore, be given priority.

In view of this, I demand that the proposed bridge on the river Ujhar on Highway No. 19 in the district of Jhalawar should be approved without any further delay.

**(v) Need to Increase the Quota of Kerosene Oil to Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL: (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar Kerosene is utilised for the purpose of lighting, cooking of food and also in pumps for irrigation purposes.

But the quota of Kerosene sanctioned to this state is very low as compared to that of other States. A total of 38287 metric tonne of kerosene had been supplied to the state for the month of July, 1992, which comes to 0.55 litre per person. The population of Bihar is more than ten per cent of the total population

country, but the kerosene quota sanctioned to this state is less than six percent of total requirements of the State. Keeping in view the population of the state, the monthly requirement of kerosene for the state is about 67474 Metric tonnes. In monsoon, the consumption of kerosene oil goes up.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to supply maximum kerosene to the State for this month.

(vi) **Need to introduce Value Added Tax Patterns for Cigarette Industry**

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, in the interim report submitted by the Tax Reforms Committee to the Government certain very important recommendations have been made, both pertaining to direct and indirect taxes. The matter has been discussed at length on the floor of the House during the Budget Session. The Tax Reforms Committee has recommended to the Government the introduction of *ad valorem* or value added pattern of Central excise duty for all commodities, though no specific mention has been made of every commodity in detail. Based on the details submitted by the Tax Reforms Committee and on the basis of the representations received from various quarters, a suggestion was made to the hon. Finance Minister to introduce value added tax pattern for cigarette industry or alternatively it could be a blend of specific-cum-*ad valorem* in public interest and from the point of view of raising more Government revenue.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take necessary steps in the matter.

(vii) **Need for construction of a flyover at Changsari Railway gate on National Highway No. 31, Assam**

SHRI PROBINA DEKA (Mangaldoi): Sir,

the people of Assam are agitating over the construction of a flyover at Changsari - 1 railway gate on national highway N. 31 connecting Barpeta and Guwahati. This strength of road is the busiest in the whole of Assam. For want of a flyover at this railway gate, vehicles plying on the national highway No. 31 remain stranded for hours together, since the railway gate remains closed for passing trains one after another. On many occasions, it so happened that patients in critical condition breathed their last before reaching the Guwahati Medical College Changansri. The city of Guwahati is expanding very rapidly towards Changsari. The proposed IIT buildings are also being constructed near Changsari.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to make necessary arrangements for the construction of a flyover at Changsari railway gate.

12.15 hrs.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

**Drought Situation in Various Parts of the Country - CONTD.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will have further discussion on prevailing drought situation in various parts of the country. Shri Rajveer Singh, you will continue your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I had initiated a discussion on the drought situation and today also you have ordered me to continue the discussion. Sir, even yesterday, I had submitted that we have not been able to utilise water properly. For the last ten years or so there had been some changes in weather and the percentage of rain is going down every year. We assembled to discuss the drought situation when such a situation arises. Yesterday I had submitted that even through the discussions are held in the House,