

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is an extremely backward State despite being rich in natural resources it is the most backward State in the field of agriculture and irrigation throughout the country....(Interruptions)....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members should know how to behave in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: The flow of water in Ganga river during rainy season is very fast. The water flows down to the bay of Bengal and cause floods in many areas.

12.00 hrs.

This is the period when there is acute scarcity of water in the areas located on the right bank of Ganga which causes damage to crops. If this higher quantity of water is diverted to the areas south of Ganga through canals, it would not only prevent floods but also generate irrigation capacity which would ultimately protect the crops from being damaged.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this problem and urge them to construct a canal somewhere between Patna and Barh to divert the flow of rain water in the Ganga river towards south so that irrigation could be provided in Nalanda, Nawada and Gaya districts.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the soil of Gujarat has huge oil and gas reserves. But all the surplus gas is burnt. ONGC had been supplying gas earlier, but now a separate commission has been appointed for the purpose. The result is that neither of the two bothers to take action in this regard. Consequently the units that have been already set up have not started functioning whereas the units already functioning are on the verge of closure.

About 15 lakh cubic metres of gas was supplied to Maharashtra for which about Rs. 450 crore were sanctioned whereas Gujarat was deprived of their share despite the fact that their demand was quite reasonable. This is a great injustice to Gujarat. The Members from Gujarat have submitted a list of demands and they will have to launch an agitation if the demands are not fulfilled.

In the end, I would like the Government to set up gas agencies in Dhanduka, Gadhada, Bawala, Bahucharaji etc. In the end, allow me to give a poetic expression to my feelings;

*"Jai raha hai faltu gas, jishi huyee hai
bahut behas*

*Ab to log keh rahe hein, yeh sarkar hai
bahut careless".*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: May I bring to the notice of the hon. Members that most of you will have the opportunity to speak. Please let it be done one after the other and the senior Members will certainly have the opportunity. I think they will get it at the end.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, you are testing the patience of the Senior Members....(Interruptions)....

SHRI S. VIJAYA RAMA RAJU (Parvathipuram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, The gastroenteriti disease is now prevailing in Srikulam and Virayanagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh. It is mostly prevalent in the rural areas and hundreds of people are suffering with this disease. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is not taking any proper action to prevent the disease. Neither the saline bottles are being supplied to be used for the patients nor there are proper medicines available. Because of the dehydration, deaths are increasing in that area. I request the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare to give suitable directions to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take proper steps immediately so that the

disease is prevented in the area. Thank You.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikramganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some canal irrigation project which was launched in Rohtas district of Bihar is quite an old project. It is one of the major projects of the country. It irrigates about 25 lakh acres of land in Rohtas, Bhabua, Buxar, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Patna districts. About 75 lakh tonnes of foodgrains grow in the area irrigated by Sone Canal Irrigation Project. It benefits about 15 lakh agricultural labourers. This project was executed in 1875 and its life span was assessed to be 50 years. Now it is already 115 years old. All the distributor canals have become useless either due to the silt deposited in them or due to the damaged embankments with the result that its capacity to carry water has almost finished. It is proving to be harmful both during drought as well as floods. Deficient rains cause drought. Floods occur due to excessive rain. The modernisation schemes sent by the Government of Bihar are lying pending with Central Government for years. Sir, through you. I would like to demand that the Government should clear these modernisation schemes and they should be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Work on Baan Sagar Project should be undertaken immediately.

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman & Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. I belong to a family of fisherman. The fishermen are a poor lot. In Gujarat, the fishing business is carried out on a large scale. The fishermen of Aurwap, Porbandar, Veraval, Jamnagar, Dwarka, Diu, Daman, Mangarol, Jaffrabad, Umargaon, Surat, and Bulsar districts enter into deep sea near Jakhō for fishing. Jakhō is situated on Indo-Pak border. But as there is no demarcation sign on the border, Navy personnel of Pakistan arrest these fishermen and put them in their jails. As a result, their fishing boats, which are very expensive, get

spoiled by lying on the coast and the fishermen have to incur a heavy loss. I had raised this question during the Ninth Lok Sabha also. At that time, the V.P. Singh Government had made an agreement with Pakistan in this regard and had got the fishermen released from jail. Now again, they being put in jails. You are aware that our country exports fish in large quantities but now it cannot be exported. Due to that the country is suffering heavy loss. The concerned industries have become sick and are lying closed. The cold strangs are lying empty. Due to fear, the fishermen do not go for fishing. This has worsened the conditions of our fishermen. They are unable to pay back the loans taken from the banks for building fishing boats. The banks have also stopped to give them further loans. They are becoming poorer. I would request the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs that arrangements should be made at the border which will warn the fishermen not to advance after a certain point.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given several notices to speak on this subject. You provided me an opportunity this time, for which I am very thankful to you.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN (Vishnupur): Sir, I rise to make a statement on a very urgent matter.

The metre gauge Bankura Damodar River Railway in West Bengal between Bankura Rai Nagar - the only way of important and powerful transport is being neglected since the charge taken by the South Eastern Railway in 1967 for the reason best known to the authorities. Its service is being deteriorated day by day. A large number of passengers deprived of their main transport. The inconvenience and difficulties of the daily passengers and goods of the vast area of Burdwan and Bankura are being of Bankura, Burdwan and Calcutta in respect of carrying of heavy goods and commodities have reached the summit. The people of the