

approve the project expeditiously and to provide substantial financial assistance to the State for redeeming the hapless victims of Devadasi system.

(III) Need to clear Irrigation Projects of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI A. PRATAP SAI (Rajampet): Some parts of Andhra Pradesh, like Rayalaseema region, consist of more than one crore population. As per geologists' reports, this region is going to become a desert in another two or three decades. To avoid such problems some irrigation projects have already been proposed but are kept pending due to various reasons.

The underground water table is going down year after year due to non-availability of rain water or upland water reservoirs. I, therefore, request the Government to clear at least those irrigation projects which come under drought-prone areas, like Rayalaseema which are pending for clearance by the Central Government.

(IV) Need to set up mills at Faridpur Aonla and Vinawar Dattaganj, U.P

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to inform that Bareilly and Badaun districts happen to be the major sugarcane producing districts in Uttar Pradesh, and Lok Sabha Constituency Aonla falls under this area. There is not a single sugar mill in my constituency in spite of the fact that the survey conducted so far suggests that this area produces sugarcanes which could feed as many as three sugar mills.

Therefore, I would like the Government to set up sugar mills one each at Faridpur - Aonla, Vinawar and Dattaganj in Uttar Pradesh so as to fulfil the longstanding demand of farmers. The farmers should be relieved of their poverty by giving them remunerative price for their sugarcanes.

(V) Need to Complete the Surveyed railway lines in Andhra Pradesh urgently.

[English]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): The State of Andhra Pradesh is getting a raw deal in regard to new railway lines. Only about 200 Kms. have been added to the rail network since independence. There have been long standing demands for construction of new railway lines from Patancheru to Pedapalli via Siddipeta, Karim Nagar, with a branch line from Karim Nagar to Adilabad via Jagityal and Nirmal; from Nandyal to Yeraguntla; from Nizamabad to Ramagundam; from Nidubrolu to Nizamapatnam and from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam via Suryapet, Khamma, Kothagudeam and Badrachalam.

Though surveys have been completed for all these lines, none has been taken up for construction.

The above mentioned Railway lines pass through the backward areas of Andhra Pradesh State and are essential for industrial development. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to construct the above railway lines at the earliest.

(VI) Need to construct a bridge on Manjhi-Ballia Road between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to submit that Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj districts in eastern Bihar are extremely backward from the economic, and social point of view and also in terms of natural availability of resources. The Government paid little attention to the development of this area either before or after independence. There has been a long-standing demand for the construction of a bridge on river Ganga in this area which falls between

[Shrimati Girija Devi]

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and is surrounded by four rivers. The total distance from Chhapara to Varanasi is only 200 km but people will have to travel a distance of about 375 kilometres via Bhatani Devria for want of a bridge. Ballia and Ghazipur located on the other side of the river can be reached by two-three trains running on narrow gauge. In the circumstances small scale industries cannot be set up there and the backwardness of the area continues to increase further. Keeping these factors in view the Government prepared a plan to construct a bridge between Manjhi and Ballia in 1977, and the foundation stone was laid by the then Government. Gradually the construction work progressed, but the work has been stopped after raising pillars. A few days ago the construction material was also removed. Government is bearing a monthly establishment expenditure of about Rs. 3 lakhs for the project. The cost of construction has also escalated due to delay in completion of the work. The local people are unhappy that the bridge has not been constructed even after such a long period and that too the construction material has also been removed from the site.

Therefore, I would like the Government to complete the construction work of the Manjhi-Ballia bridge without any delay for the development of this area which has, so far remained extremely backward.

14.50 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

- (vii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Bakreswar and Kolaghat Thermal Power Projects**

[*English*]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
(*Joynagar*): *The Annual Report (1990-91) of the Department of Power of the Union*

Government presents a dismal picture about the performance of thermal power units, which is a matter of immediate concern - the thermal generation in 1990-91 being 14.91 billion units less than the target. Of particular importance is the delay in commissioning, a problem quite in line with the cost and time over-run. The uncertainty prevailing in 1990-91 may contribute to the delay in commissioning of the power plants in the coming year, particularly the fate of Bakreswar (in West Bengal), in which case indefinite delay may be caused due to the recent political and economic changes in the Soviet Union. The State Government of West Bengal was determined to implement the project by March, 1992, it having already invested Rs. 120 crores in it. I would, therefore, urge the Union Government that pending the finalisation of any financial agreement with the Soviet Union on the Bakreswar thermal power project, it should extend some concrete financial and technical assistance to enable the State Government to push through this project without any further delay. The State Government is already in the grip of acute financial crunch, which has forced it to suspend further work on its Kolaghat thermal power project. In this case too, the Central Government may consider extending some financial help to the State Government to enable it to go ahead with the project not only to prevent cost over-runs but also to provide much needed relief to the power-starved city of Calcutta, particularly its industries.

- (viii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for Sinking giant bore-wells to solve the drinking water problem particularly in North Arcot and Chengal Anna Districts**

***SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM**
(*Arkonam*): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, particularly in North Arcot and Chengal Anna Districts, due to scanty rain people are put to a lot of difficulties. The inhabitants on the banks of Palar river in Vellore, Arakkonam, Sholin-