

tractor's labour in these vacant posts.

The open cast projects produce 40 per cent of the total coal production. Many of these OCPs are being allowed to run by the contractors with their men and machines, ignoring the Government order. After being pressurised, now Coal India has stopped operation of OCPs by contractors in some areas and as a result the workers have become jobless.

These contractors' labour are being deprived of their wages/pay and other benefits, as enjoyed by their counter parts who are or were on the Company's pay roll. The workers absolutely depend on the mercy of their contractors.

Therefore, I demand that all the OCPs must be run departmentally and the above mentioned contractors' labour who are or were working there must be regularised immediately, with retrospective effect, and they should be given all the benefits which their counterparts are enjoying on the Company's payroll.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): Sir, I want to raise an issue on the subject of exemption of power driven pump spares/components from Excise duty.

Water handling power driven pumps are mainly used for agriculture and are exempted from excise duty. But, at present, when the components and spares are made outside the pump factory for consumption, excise duty has to be paid on them.

These pumps are made in small scale sector. They consume 20 per cent of national energy. Energy efficient, cost effective prototypes are now developed, which can save upto 15 per cent to 20 per cent of power and upto 30 per cent of scarce imported raw material. The components are to be standardised and made by individual units while

assembling is to be done by SSIs. The excise duty on these pumps will make the pump uncompetitive and the purpose of standardisation and energy saving material will be defeated. The poor farmers will be affected, if it is allowed to continue.

Hence, I request the hon. Finance Minister to remove the excise duty on pump components and spares.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sone Canal is the life line of five districts of Bihar. 28 lakh acre of land is irrigated through it. It come into existence during the British regime. But it is in miserable condition after the 42 years of independence. The engineer attending to the canal's work has reported that if Rs. 2000 crore are spent by Government of India on it and the canal is made pucca then 34 lakh acres of land instead of 28 lakh acres would be irrigated through it. The Government provided Rs. 22 crore last year. I appeal to the Government of India to provide Rs. 2,000 crore to make the Sone Canal, the life line of the people of the five districts, pucca so that irrigation facility could be provide there.

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, seven years have passed since Karjan, Daman Ganga, Deo and Guhai dams were built but the water of those dams is not available to the tribal areas because their canals passes under the railway crossing. The drains have not been built over them as yet. In order to build the drains, Government of Gujarat have written to the Ministry of Railways and lakh of rupees have been deposited. No solution has been found during the last seven years. Many schemes of Gujarat have been pending for not providing the forest land by the Ministry of Forest. I request the Government to solve the problem at the earliest.