

attention of the Government to the serious drought situation in the State of Kerala. The State is faced with an unprecedented situation of drought and shortage of drinking water. The drought has affected all fields of economy in the state. The agriculture sector is the worst affected. The cash crops which earn foreign exchange for us are on the brink of a collapse. The rural population is faced with unemployment and poverty. The coastal belt also is seriously affected with fisherman thrown out of jobs.

I would request the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present the Bihar Government is negotiating with Nepal for construction of a high dam on river Kosi but the Government of India is not likely to take any action on it now. Due to this, the Bihar Government is finding it difficult to negotiate with the Government of Nepal.

Every year there is loss of life, property and crops due to floods in North Bihar and both the Central and the State Governments spend billions and billions of rupees as relief and grants. I would like to demand from the Government of India that it should immediately take up these important questions. Besides this, it is clear from the survey conducted by the Government of Bihar that half of our country can be supplied electricity if this high dam is constructed with the consent of Nepal Government.

Therefore, I would like to demand that immediate arrangements should be made for the construction of high dam on river Kosi.

[*English*]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): In Hailakandi district of Assam there is only one L.P.G distributorship and as a result there is maximum demand for cooking gas but this single agency cannot cope up with the huge demand. On the other hand fuel wood is not at all sufficiently available

due to heavy deforestation through illegal felling of trees and because of drawing of plants and bamboos as raw materials by the Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd., Panehgram.

So, I urge upon the Government to allow another L.P.G. distributorship at an early date in Hailakandi district to meet the demand of the large number of consumers so that they are relieved of their anxiety of having gas cylinder.

SHRI B.N.REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards deteriorating condition of Handloom Weavers in Andhra Pradesh. The Government's callous attitude caused an inordinate delay in meeting their genuine demands. In response to the reported starvation deaths of more than 100 handloom weavers, some Ministers and officials had visited the State during the last quarter of 1951. The purpose of such visits was, I think, merely to show lip sympathies to the families of the unfortunate victims. This is because none of the promises made to the people during the visits was fulfilled so far. For instance, while the Union Textiles Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot, promised all help to tide over the crisis in the handloom industry, the Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram has gone to the extent of assuring to supply 4000 bales of yarn to Andhra Pradesh every month by the South Indian Mills Association.

But to our disappointment, nothing has been done. Not a single bale was received by the weavers. Neither the Central nor the State Government has paid any attention that it deserves in this regard. Further, it is a matter of serious concern, as no compensation was provided to the bereaved families so far.

Now, coming to the crisis in the handloom industry, I think, it was due to the unprecedented increase in the price of yarn and dyes and lack of work. As a result, the Primary Cooperative Societies, the APCO and the State Textile Development Corporation have failed to provide work to the weav-