

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

Acquisition Act of above mentioned Parishad formulated by the Legislature of the concerned states are vested in the Parliament. (as per the provision of Article 254(2).

The Union Government is, therefore, urged upon to bring forth an amendment in the provisions relating to the acquisition of land under the Parishad Act, without delay in order to remove discrimination and anomalies to which thousands of farmers in the state of Uttar Pradesh are being subjected to.

(iii) Need to set up 2000 Megawatt Power Project in Central Bihar

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the power situation in Gaya district of Central Bihar and Palamu, Chatra and other districts of South Bihar is deteriorating fastly. It seems that people of Central Bihar and South Bihar are returning to the age when man used lanterns. Except some of the urban areas, rural areas are not getting power for more than two or three hours. As a result of it thousands of small scale industries have been closed down. Due to shortage of power several big industries are also unable to function smoothly. Thousands of acres of farmers' Land are not being irrigated and lakhs of students are unable to carry on their studies due to shortage of power. The condition is so dreadful that despondency and frustration is increasing among youth.

In view of the public interest I, therefore urge upon the Union Government to set up a 2000 Megawatt power project expeditiously in any one of the Gaya, Palamu or Chatra district. This proposed project will benefit crores of people of the State and initiate development in the state.

(iv) Need to take steps to Save Indigenous Newsprint Units from Closure

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : There are four government-owned newsprint manufacturing units in India. The total production capacity of these four units is around 4.5 lakh tonnes against a total annual demand of 6.5 lakh tonnes. The shortfall is met from imports.

Till 1992 the imports were restricted to actual users who could import newsprint at a ratio of 4 : 1 (i.e.) for every one tonne of newsprint imported.

The overseas newsprint exporters formed themselves into a cartel and started dumping large quantities of

newsprint in the Indian market. The landed price cost of imported newsprint (deliberately kept low) is much lower than the cost of the indigenous newsprint.

In 1995-96 a recommendation was made by the Kelkar Committee to impose a 40 per cent duty on imported newsprint, to give some relief to the indigenous units, but strangely this was not accepted or implemented by the Government of India.

Presently, there are about 35,000 newspapers/magazines/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India entitling them to import any quantity of newsprint without payment of customs duty irrespective of the fact that more than 80 per cent of these newspapers do not come out regularly according to the Indian Newspapers Society.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to take remedial measures by adopting a national newsprint policy and anti-dumping measures to be initiated through imposing customs duty at the rate of 40 per cent on imported newsprint as recommended by the Kelkar Committee, clamping or a counter-vailing duty on imported newsprint to provide a level-playing field to indigenous units by restricting imports ceiling to about two lakh tonnes (shortfall) annually and issuing import entitlement certificates by the Registrar of Newspapers for India based upon actual circulation of a newspaper/periodical.

(v) Re : Need to include Parivara, Besta and Talvara Communities of Karnataka in the list of Scheduled Tribes

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : A large number of people belonging to Talvara, Parivara and Besta communities have been living in some areas of Mysore District, Karnataka. They belong to weaker sections of the society and they have relations with people belonging to Scheduled Tribes. These tribes are synonymous to Nayakas, Naiks and Valmikis. These communities have been demanding since long for including them in the list of Scheduled Tribes. In fact, this was recommended by the State Government of Karnataka long ago. When the Ordinance was promulgated in the year 1990 to include certain synonymous equivalent to Nayakas under the category of Scheduled Tribes, the synonymous Parivara, Talvara and Besta have been left out. The matter is being highlighted by the State Government for more than a decade. While moving a Constitution (Amendment) Bill, the Minister in-charge had given a categorical assurance on the floor of the House to include some other minor communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes.