

saying of Zauq, a contemporary of Bahadur Shah Zafar, "*Kaun Jai Zauq Dilli ki gallan Chhod kar,*" is no longer relevant now. Chandni Chowk is now totally devoid of its old grandeur and beauty. High rise buildings have come up there hampering proper passage of air and light. There are unending crowds everywhere. The ever-increasing influx of population is engulfing the splendour, glory and beauty of the capital. The ancient character of Delhi city is on the decline. Its identity is getting lost in the struggle between old and new. It is the duty of all of us to preserve and protect the traditional character, grandeur and unique beauty of old Delhi. I request the Central Government to take immediate and effective steps in the matter.

- (iii) **Scarcity of Drinking water in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner districts and need to make provision in 7th Plan for supply of drinking water through Rajasthan Canal.**

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water in the desert areas and the border districts of the country. Even after spending crores of rupees, the position in respect of drinking water has become worse in most of the villages in the districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner.

Rural water supply schemes were formulated under the Sixth Five Year Plan and provision for drinking water through tubewells was made in hundreds of villages. But the villages are spread in an area of 25 square kilometers to 200 square kilometers and the rural population living in "dhonis" has also to be provided drinking water.

Some tubewells in Lathi Series have proved to be successful. Most of the tubewells have a capacity of 500 to 3,000 gallons which is insufficient to meet the requirements of rural areas and thus a number of villages are deprived of drinking water. The water in the tubewells is also drying up which may lead to a situation in 10 to 20 years where the tubewells would dry up completely because of their over use. In a number of villages tubewells have not proved a success.

A permanent solution of the drinking water problem lies in Rajasthan Canal which is now known as Indira Canal. Lift canals and Flow canals can serve Saiba (Ganganagar, Churu) and Gajner and Kolayat, Fa'audi, Pokaran and Mohangarh and Gadhra Road. So, I request the Central Government to make provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan for supply of drinking water by lift canals in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Ganganagar and Churu Districts.

- (iv) **Cooking gas agencies for Renukot, Obra and Robertsganj towns, district Mirzapur (U.P.).**

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is great resentment among the people in connection with the action that the Central Government have been taking during the last few years for providing cooking gas facility in Renukot, Obra and Robertsganj towns of Mirzapur District because in the absence of cooking gas in these industrial towns, the people are facing a grave fuel problem. The decision to allot gas agency in Renukot has been revoked and second advertisement has not been given in this regard. Similarly, second advertisement has not been given for Robertsganj and undue delay is being caused in respect of Obra. In respect of Chunar also, no advertisement has so far come out while the Government has a policy to provide cooking gas facility to the towns having a population of less than 20,000. So, while inviting the attention of the hon. Petroleum Minister towards the said problems, I demand that action may be taken to allot gas agencies in these towns at the earliest.

[English]

- (v) **Need for clearance by Department of Environment for Construction of Varadarajaswamy Project in Kurnool District (A.P.)**

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Varadarajaswamy Project in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh was approved by Planning Commission long back. Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up construction and substantial amount was spent on that project. Meanwhile the Department of Environment has objected to the project stating that it would