

upgraded Department of Applied Physics and Computer should be started in this University.

- (iii) Need to construct a new bridge in place of the Mattancherry bridge in Kerala.

PROF. K V. THOMAS (Ernakulam); Mattan cherry-w/Island bridge is an important link connecting cochin to the rest of Kerala. The guarantee period of this bridge is over. So, a new bridge has to be constructed immediately. I request the Hon. Transport Minister to give instruction to the Cochin Port Authorities and Kerala Government to construct this bridge.

- (iv) Need for early clearance of the scheme for modernisation of the Sone Canal pending with the Planning Commission.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar): Under Rule 377 I wish to draw the attention of the Central Minister of Irrigation to the miserable condition of the Sone Canal system in Bihar which is one of the oldest Irrigation systems in the country. Started some 120 years ago, it irrigates vast areas of the most fertile land in Bihar including about 50 thousand acres in District Bhojpur. Shockingly poor maintenance over the years and with new irrigation schemes in Madhya Pradesh and UP river Sone have considerably decimated the Sone Canal system in Bihar and reduced its capacity. Areas which were termed as the granary of Bihar and depended on Sone Canal system for more than a century are faced with the sure prospect of turning into stretches of a desert.

After sustained efforts of public representatives a scheme for modernisation of the Sone Canal involving an expenditure of 1,200/- crores under World Bank Aid Programme was taken up last year. All preliminary investigations in the matter have been completed and several rounds of talks have taken place between the Central and State Government representatives.

I am told that the scheme is now pending with the Planning Commission for their approval.

The importance of the scheme cannot be over-emphasised as it is the oldest irrigation system in Bihar and benefits the farmers of a very backward area in the State.

I make fervent appeal to the Central Government to give top priority to this scheme and ensure its clearance at the earliest.

- (v) Need to grant clearance of the Petro-Chemical Project at Haldia in West Bengal.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is a matter of great concern that the Central Government has not yet granted clearance for the Petro-chemical project to be set up at Haldia, West Bengal. It appears that the Central Government has no objection to the change in product-mix or to the transfer of the Letter of Intent from West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation to the new Joint sector company but on the ground of the provision of the MRTP Act is not inclined to allow the private sector industrialist to participate in the project. It is significant that the Central Government has refused to set up the project in the Central Sector and has also refused to join the State Government in implementing the project and at the same time is delaying the clearance of the project when the State Government has entered into an agreement with a private sector concern.

The Central Government should give up its policy of procrastination which is bound to increase the cost of the project and will also deprive the State of West Bengal the benefit of a major industrial project. I call upon the Government to grant the necessary clearance for the project at an early date.

[Translation]

- (vi) Need to re-route Kashi Express through Jaunpur Pratapgarh.

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarapur); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the following important matter under Rule 377 :—

Lakhs of people from Faizabad, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Ballia, Basti, Deoria, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh of eastern part of Uttar Pradesh live in Bombay where many of them have settled or are engaged in business. They do not have any direct train for Bombay from Faizabad, in spite of it being a Commissionary headquarter. The train from Gorakhpur to Bombay runs