

[Shri Gopal Krishna Thota]

Araku has a name for its beauty. There are also other places like Anantagiri, Paderu, Chintapalli. These are all well-known to foreign tourists. If we develop these places, definitely we will get a lot of foreign exchange.

(vii) Need to formulate a total water management plan for flood control and drainage of Mahananda basin in Bihar

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I would like to bring to the notice of the House today the following matter of urgent public importance:

North-east Bihar lying between the Kosi and Teesta basins is subject to recurrent floods. This region is the basin of the river Mahananda and its tributaries Parmah, Dok Michi, Bakra, etc., which not only swell enormously during the rainy season, draining their waters from the Himalayas but also frequently change course and give rise to salination in some places. The problem of flood control is aggravated by the problem of silting, salination and erosion. Nothing worthwhile has been done so far to tame these rivers and no long term integrated plan has yet been formulated for the Mahananda basin. From year to year, some palliative measures like dredging silted channel or reinforcing a bank subjected to erosion are undertaken on a small scale to meet emergency situations. The assurance by the Ministry of Water Resources that an integrated long term plan for flood control and water management for the Mahananda basin shall be undertaken by the Ganga basin Commission with the assistance of the Government of Bihar has not yet been fulfilled.

Water management shall not only control flooding but also help overcome water scarcity for irrigation during the dry season and solve the drainage and consequent erosion and desalination problem of

the area. It is requested that the Ministry of Water Resources may take the initiative to formulate a total water management plan for flood control and drainage of the Mahananda basin, extend necessary technical assistance to the Government of Bihar in this regard and sanction funds for its progressive implementation within a reasonable time frame.

[Translation]

(viii) Need to take steps to re-open Co-operative Sugar Factory and Gauribidanur in Karnataka

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): The Cooperative Sugar Factory of Gauribidinur in Karnataka has been closed. The Karnataka Government is trying to sell the factory. On account of this, thousands of workers and their family members are rendered jobless. Some of them have already migrated to the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in search of jobs. Unless immediate steps are taken, the workers and their family members will continue to starve.

I therefore urge upon the Government of India to take up immediate relief measures and arrange to get the cooperative sugar factory without any further delay.

[English]

(ix) Need to set up a Bench of Orissa High Court at Sambalpur in Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The necessity of setting up a bench of the Orissa High Court at Sambalpur, the centre of the Western part of the State need not be over-emphasised. The ruling party in the State is also committed to this genuine demand of the people of that area by including the same in its election manifesto as back as in 1974. But it is regretted that on some plea or other its implementation is being delayed causing a great deal of discontent.

* The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.