

district in Himachal Pradesh for inclusion in the World Heritage list.

(xv) **Need for intensive hydro-geological survey of Alwar district of Rajasthan.**

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAY (Parbhani) : There is no perennial source of water in the form of river or stream in district Alwar, Rajasthan State which would have been harnessed for irrigation of agricultural land of farmers. Presently, ratio of irrigated and un-irrigated lands there is of 35 and 65. A project of water supply through Tubewells is longstanding genuine demand of the farmers of the district. The operational capability of the Rajasthan State Ground Water Corporation set up by the Government of Rajasthan is negligible due to paucity of funds and rigs.

Water table of wells and tubewells had gone deeper from 40 ft. to 50 ft. in that area due to failure of monsoon rains and prevalence of drought conditions for the last four years. Hydro-geological survey undertaken in district Alwar, had been done on the basis of their old and outdated permanent points.

Systematic and technology mission based data survey was not done. Consequently, vast geographical areas have been identified as "dark areas" as regards availability of water. This type of survey has caused a great harm to the interests of farmers. Thus, there is a need of hydro-geological survey afresh in areas of district Alwar.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India that systematic and intensive hydro-geological survey of the whole geographical area of district Alwar should immediately be conducted by the Central Ground Water Board so that reliable information of level of water-table is assured to farmers.

Exploratory tube-wells (Bore-holes) in problem villages should also be undertaken so that people can get potable water.

(xvi) **Need to Sanction Swatantrata Samman Pension to all the freedom fighters.**

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh) : The Central Government has awarded

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension to some of the freedom fighters while thousands of freedom fighters in the States have been ignored on the ground that they had not undergone imprisonment for the period prescribed by the Central Government as the criterion for eligibility to Central Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension. This is unjust as the imprisonment was given according to judicial view. Gandhiji had said that a person who had been in jail even for a day was also a Tyagi. Every freedom fighter played a role in the freedom struggle. Now to classify them on the basis of period of imprisonment is unjustful and disgraceful to the freedom fighters. Credit for winning freedom goes to all freedom fighters irrespective of the period for which they were imprisoned.

So, I, on behalf of the freedom fighters, request the Central Government to sanction the same Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension to all the State Freedom fighter pensioners. Their request to treat all the freedom fighters equally as a group should be considered favourably and the limit of imprisonment should be cancelled.

(xvii) **Need to set up a bench of Kerala High Court at Trivandrum.**

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : A Bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum, the Capital of the State, is a long standing demand of the Government of Kerala. In 1971, the State Legislature of Kerala had passed a unanimous resolution for establishing a Bench of the High Court at Trivandrum. But the matter is still pending with the Union Government. In answer to Starred Question No 679 of 1986, the then Law Minister made a categorical statement that he would make enquiries to find out whether any such request has been made by the State Government. But in spite of repeated reminders, no further action has been taken. I, therefore, earnestly urge for establishing a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum without any further delay.

[Translation]

(xviii) **Need to take steps to check recurring floods in Bihar.**

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for

[Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta]

the last few year, entire North Bihar is reeling under devastating floods. The economy of the entire region has been crippled due to the damage caused to crops and other things valued at Rs. one thousand crores last year. If devastating floods continue to inundate the entire North Bihar, the fertile land of this region will turn into desert in the near future. The situation in two districts—East Champaran and West Champaran—of North Bihar is really grim. Devastation caused by floods in fertile Champaran district is difficult to describe. About 3-4 hundred rivulets originating from Nepal inundate the entire region during rainy season. If a high power dam and reservoir is constructed on Champaran-Nepal border to check the flow of water, the menace of floods can be controlled to a great extent. In addition to this, the drawbacks in the Gandak project cause waterlogging in the entire region. Implementation of the Gandak Drainage Scheme is essential for which money can be borrowed from the World Bank.

My suggestion to the Central Government is to include the flood problem of North Bihar in the national programme and to start work on the Gandak Drainage Scheme. Central Government should take up the matter of constructing large reservoirs near the originating points of rivers with the Government of Nepal in order to find a lasting solution to the perennial flood problem.

[English]

(xix) Need for early clearance of link portion of Chevatura Major Canal

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) ; The work in upper reaches of the Chevatura Major Canal in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh has been completed recently and the work in the lower reaches had been completed four years ago. However, work on the reaches between 5.6 to 8.4 kms is not being permitted as it is stated to be a forest land. As reported by the Conservator of Forests, there is no forest between 5.6 and 8.4 kms. Despite that the Union Government has not yet cleared the project. As a result, about

4270 hectares of land is not getting water for irrigation for the last four years and the area has been badly affected by the drought. As a result of non-clearance of the project by the Union Government, people are very much agitated.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to clear the area for being dug and linked with the main canal so that water is available for affected areas for irrigation purposes.

(xx) Need to remove disparity in fares for Haj pilgrims

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : A large number of pilgrims from Eastern and North-eastern India go to Mecca for Haj from and via Calcutta. Pilgrims from other regions, whose travels originate from Delhi, Bombay, Madras or Srinagar are allowed to travel by chartered Air flights. But pilgrims from Calcutta are required to pay an additional sum of Rs. 2400 per person which is highly discriminatory and improper. Further, subsidy of 33 per cent in air fare given to Haj pilgrims since 1980 has now been substantially reduced to 15 per cent from 1984 which has imposed an additional burden on the poor pilgrims. The facility of issuing one free air ticket for every ten paid tickets should also be made available to the pilgrims. In the absence of proper and adequate shipping service being made available to the pilgrims, it is essential that Air flights should be provided at reasonable fares within the means of the pilgrims most of whom are poor people and spend their life savings. I urge upon the Government to treat pilgrims from all the centres at par and not to discriminate amongst them and no extra charge or fare should be levied on pilgrims whose travels originate from Calcutta and the subsidy in Air fare should be raised to 33 per cent as before.

I urge upon that the Government to take an early and favourable decision so that the Haj pilgrims going this year are not denied the minimum facilities. I also request the Government that it should frame a long term policy with regard to the travel facilities of Haj pilgrims which will benefit all concerned.