

common interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Central Government has constituted a Standing Commission which is a matter of pleasure for these people.

This Commission since its inception has been constantly presenting reports to the Government every year. More than 1000 recommendations for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been made but in this connection no concrete steps have been taken so far.

The aforesaid commission is not able to work effectively because it has not been made constitutionally powerful and effective.

Therefore, I will suggest that it is the duty of the Government to accelerate the welfare work for these classes keeping in mind the principle of '*Bahu jana hitaya, ba'hu jana sukhaya*'. This Commission should be granted the powers of enquiry and should be given a constitutional status.

(ii) Steps needed to give relief to the drought affected people of Chikballapur area in Karnataka

12.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : Many parts of the Karnataka State are reeling under severe drought for the past few years. Especially Chikballapura area in Karnataka is the worst hit by drought. This has affected agricultural production and created a severe crisis of drinking water in this area. Due to continuing drought, fodder is not available here which has resulted in the death of many cattles. The water level of tanks, wells etc. has gone down and has created serious problem to the people. Several people have already migrated to the neighbouring states in search of employment.

I therefore urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to give

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

relief to the drought affected population of this area by supplying portable water, fodder, etc. Tube wells should be dug and deepened in this area to rescue the farmers from the severity of drought. The Government should also take measures to provide employment to the unemployed persons of this drought affected area.

[English]

(iii) Augmentation of travelling facilities to the people travelling from Orissa to Surat and Ahmedabad

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Lakhs of workers from Orissa are residing at Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat State. Since long there was genuine demand to give them railway facilities to travel from these places to Orissa. Now Ahmedabad-Hyderabad Express will be running from 1st April, 1987. At least two additional coaches in Ahmedabad-Hyderabad Express may be provided for people of Orissa to facilitate travel from Ahmedabad to Orissa and vice-versa. These two coaches may be attached to Konark Express at Hyderabad so that the workers and people of Orissa in large numbers can easily travel from Orissa to Surat and Ahmedabad which is a long pending demand.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to construct bridges over Kareh and Bagmati rivers in Darbhanga and Samastipur districts of Bihar

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the area of my constituency comprising Darbhanga and Samastipur districts is a flood-prone one. There are several rivers flowing between these two districts which are separating them by hundreds of miles. Hence, it is essential for the Central Government to get the Larjhaighat bridge near Hasanpur, the Rajghat bridge in between Scindia and Hasanpur, the Barhiahatighat bridge near Baheri, the Goharghat bridge and the Hathorighat bridge on the Kareh and Bagmati rivers constructed. This area is the most backward area in the