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[*Translation*]

(i) Demand for giving early clearance to pending irrigation Schemes submitted by the Government of Rajasthan

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is an acute shortage of irrigation facilities in Rajasthan. Due to five years' continuous drought the public life in Rajasthan has been badly affected. Thousands of animals are dying everyday. The State Government have already submitted several irrigation schemes such as Kali Sindh, Parvati and Gardada to the Central Water Board and the Planning Commission for their consideration. But the Central Water Board and the Planning Commission have not accorded their approval, hence, the work has not been started on these schemes. The rivers are in abundance in the Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar districts of Rajasthan. If water of these rivers can be utilised for drinking and irrigation purposes, then the districts of Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar can meet the entire demand of the drinking water of the cities of Ajmer, Jodhpur and Jaipur as well as their villages. The rivers like Parvati Parwan, Kali Singh, Chambal Andcri Tahasi, Ujar Maiz and Ghora Pachhar flowing through Kota district can be helpful in solving the drinking and irrigation water problems of the whole Rajasthan. The State Government have submitted many schemes regarding these rivers to the Central Government and many more schemes on these rivers can be formulated.

I urge upon the Central Government to consider the irrigation schemes of Rajasthan on priority basis and take a decisions without any further dalay.

[*English*]

(ii) Demand to increase the reservation quota on certain trains passing through Bhubaneswar and provision of additional coaches in Konark Express

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagatsinghpur) : Sir, at present, Bhubaneshwar station has been provided with a reservation quota of 2 berths in AC 2 tier and 6 berths in 2nd Class by 901 Up Trivandrum—Guwahati Express and 6 berths in 2nd Class by 902 Dn. Guwahati—Trivandrum Express trains. It is quite inadequate to meet the demand of the travelling public towards Guwahati and also towards Trivandrum. The quota in 2nd Class should be doubled and the quata in 1st Class as well as AC 2 tier should be allotted to Bhubaneshwar for journey both towards Trivandrum and Guwahati. The number of passengers travelling by these trains from Bhubaneshwar has been increasing day-by-day and many passengers have been facing problems for want of reservation in the South-bound trains. Therefore, I demand that reservation quota in these trains should be enhanced. I also demand for the introduction of one additional through coach and another AC coach between Bhubaneshwar and Bombay by Konark Express to cater to the requirement of a large number of tourists and passengers going from and to Orissa.

(iii) Need to utilise agricultural residue for producing biomass

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Sir, because of large scale increase in population of our country and deforestation as well as inadequate supply of coal, almost entire population of the country is facing lot of difficulties, to meet the fuel requirements. Of all the potential alternative fuels available in India, the one that is most neglected, is biomass from agricultural and forestry residues. More than 200 million tonnes of agriculture residues are produced per year in our country of which 80 million tonnes is only in the form of rice straw and rice husk. Out of these enormous quantity of biomass, even if 100 million tonnes of raw-materials is processed into "briquetted fuel" it will meet nearly half of the total coal requirements in the country which I feel, will definitely boost our economy and reduce pressure on forest, coal and natural gas to a large extent.

I would, therefore, request the Government to take all possible steps to utilise these huge quantity of residues for producing biomass, which would be great boon to the entire population of the country.