

[Translation]

- (iv) Demand to review the decision to reduce the supply of foodgrains in Bastar District

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : The Bastar district has faced one of the worst droughts in the last 20 years because there was absolutely no rainfall during the year 1986-87. The poor adivasis are still grappling with the drought situation.

The State Government have started relief works everywhere in each region of Bastar to face this dreadful situation. More than one lakh labourers are employed in the relief works and the relief works are their only means of livelihood. The tribals of this district do not want to go anywhere else in search of work even if they have to starve. The consumption of goodgrains of this district is 3 thousand quintal per month. But, by ignoring the actual consumption of this district the supply of goodgrains has been reduced to 1 thousand quintal from the last month. This has created a pitiable condition in Bastar district. Because the whole district has been affected by drought therefore, excepting production of Kharif crop, it is dependent on imports from outside.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to see that there is no reduction in the supply of 3 thousand quintal of foodgrains to the Bastar district.

[English]

- (v) Need to give early clearance to the Colour Picture Tube Project submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation has applied for licence to manufacture colour picture tubes in 1983. Taking into account the transportation aspects, the Union Government at that point of time had decided to grant licences to two State Public Sector organisations, one in the North and the other in the South. Accordingly, letters of intent were issued to Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation and Punjab State Electronics

Development Corporation. Subsequently, another letter of intent was issued to Uttar Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation. The APEDC has gone in for the latest technology from Philips, Holland, who also offered to participate to the extent of 60 per cent of the equity, bringing in thereby valuable foreign exchange for the country. While the foreign collaboration applications of Punjab with Hitachi and U.P. with Toshiba were cleared within two months, the application of APEDC with Philips is still pending with the Union Government for more than two years. The Technical experts of Philips have examined several places in Andhra Pradesh and found Kondapalli as ideally suited for locating the project where water from river Krishna and power from Vijayawada Thermal Power Station are available in plenty. The people of Andhra Pradesh and Krishna district in particular are very eager that this colour picture tube project is sanctioned quickly as it will go a long way in the industrial development of the area. The Union Minister for Industries had informed me way back in December 1986 that the proposal of M/s APEDC Ltd. for the manufacture of colour picture tubes is under active consideration of the Government. It is more than a year now, but nothing has been heard thereafter.

I urge upon the Union Government to clear the foreign collaboration application of APEDC with Philips, Holland, immediately.

- (vi) Demand for extension of broad gauge railway line from Guwahati to Tinsukia/Dibrugarh

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : North Eastern States of India, comprising Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh are linked with the rest of the country by the N.E. Frontier Railways. North-Eastern Railway is the only Zonal Railway having single line trunk route and out of total of 1200 km., only 50 per cent has been converted to Broad-Gauge connecting only Guwahati with the rest of the country and the rest 50 per cent still remains under Metre Gauge line even after 40 years of Independence.