

[Shri M.R. Saikia]

Large public sector enterprises like Oil India, ONGC, Fertilizer Corporation, Coal India and major tea gardens earning valuable foreign exchange for the country are situated in upper Assam areas only in between Guwahati and Dibrugarh which is still served by metre gauge link of Indian Railways and that too having only single line track.

The public sector units are facing immense problem in transportation of their finished products and raw materials, heavy machinery and equipments from ports and other major cities of India to their plants and *vice versa*.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide funds for extension of broad-gauge line from Guwahati to Tinsukia/Dibrugarh which is the nodal point of the entire North-Eastern Region for development of this region.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to formulate schemes to provide drinking water to Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, etc. from Indira Gandhi Canal

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I want to present a matter of public importance before the House. The problem of drinking water is still there in most of the villages of desert districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Churu of Rajasthan. The Schemes were formulated to supply drinking water to villages by means of tube-wells but those tube-wells are also becoming dry due to the scarcity of water.

The drinking water has not yet been supplied to many villages and several hamlets, which have been declared villages, in the above mentioned districts.

The water in most of the villages of these districts is saline. There are such villages where either there is no water at all or the supply is very less. In some of the villages the tube-wells have also not been successful.

The permanent solution for the problem

of drinking water of these districts is the Indira Gandhi Canal. The State Government have formulated some schemes to supply drinking water from the Indira Gandhi Canal to some villages and the city of Jaisalmer. But these are not adequate. Therefore, it is necessary for the State Government to formulate a scheme for supply of drinking water to all the villages of these districts and important cities like Barmer, Pokaran, Shergarh, Bulotra, Siwana and the headquarters of Tehsil and Panchayat Committees.

An amount of Rs. 2 thousand crore is required to solve the said problem and the Government of Rajasthan is unable to arrange such a big amount.

Therefore, the Government of Rajasthan should prepare a scheme to supply drinking water from the Indira Gandhi Canal to the desert villages and cities of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Churu and for the implementation of this Scheme the Central Government should make a provision of 1500 crore rupees in the coming Seventh and Eighth Year Plans and the Rajasthan Government should mobilise 500 crore rupees for this purpose.

- (viii) Need for providing improved quality of cattle feed to U.P., Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice under Rule 377 that the cattle wealth is in abundance in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Chhota Nagpur in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal and in the plateaus of Madhya Pradesh. In spite of having hundreds of cows and goats, some tribals or farmers get very less quantity of milk. The height of the cows of these regions is less and give as much milk as goats give. The milk giving capacity of the cattle of these regions is less than 15 per cent in comparison to that of cattle of other regions of India. Every body knows about the importance of milk in our public and social life. There is no scarcity of cattle feed in forests and good quality fodder can be developed extensively with the help of the Government. The breed of these short statured cows, buffaloes and goats can be improved but, unfortunately,