

12.30 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

- (II) **Need to restore the system of supplying coal by rail to industrial units of the country.**

DR CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to give a notice under Rule 377. The new system of distributing coal has been enforced since April, 1987. Under the system, the industrial units consuming 120 wagons of coal annually can not get coal direct by rail and these units will have to pay more to meet their coal requirement. It will naturally affect adversely all industrial units located in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh of North India. The cost of coal procurement is likely to push up by 25 to 30 per cent as a result of these units not getting coal direct by rail and the consumers will have to pay more for the commodities as the increase in the cost of coal will have its effect on the prices of commodities produced. The price index, will, as a result, tend to rise. Besides, these industrial units will have to make advance payment to get dump coal because of their not receiving coal direct by rail and it will have its repercussions on the capital investment of the unit. Due to increase in interest, cost of production will increase. In this way, the consumers as well as the industrial units are likely to be badly affected due to the enforcement of this system.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government that in order to protect the consumers and the industrial units, arrangements be made to supply coal to these units direct by rail as before so that the prices of the commodities do not increase and the price index is kept under check.

[English]

- (III) **Need to take up construction of Shivalik Project including the Swan Channelisation Project of**

Himachal Pradesh, before the end of 7th Plan

PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The Shivalik project, including the Swan channelisation project in Una/Hamirpur Districts of H P has been under consideration of the Government of India for a number of years. The sanction and construction of this project is extremely essential to check soil erosion and reclaim thousands of hectares of land, as also for promoting the ecology and environment of the region.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Water Resources, Government of India to take early steps for the finalization, sanction and construction of this important project, with financial assistance from the World Bank, or any other international financial agencies and ensure that the project is taken up at least before the end of the 7th Five Year Plan.

- (IV) **Steps needed to revive the heavy water plant at Talcher.**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : The Heavy water Plant at Talcher in Orissa was established by the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, in the year 1973, with the investment of Rs. 70 crores with imported technology and machineries from West Germany with the aim to produce 65 MT of heavy water annually which was to be used to produce power from atomic energy. The recurring expenditure towards the salary, D A etc for 46 Gazetted and 340 Non-Gazetted employees working there, would be more than Rs. 48 lakhs per annum and Rs. 72 lakhs is spent towards the supply of raw gas to the plant. Besides, Rs. 14.4 million is spent towards supply of synthesis gas and other materials required for the plant. But due to an accident which took place in the plant on 29-4-86, the production was stopped and since then there has been no production of heavy water from the plant, causing heavy losses to the Government exchequer. It has caused great harm to the national interest also. The management of