

12.30 hrs.

**Himachal Pradesh, before the
end of 7th Plan**

[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**

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

[*Shri Chintamani Jana*]

this plant is not taking any interest to re-vitalise the plant. According to the knowledgeable persons, the plant could have been made workable within a couple of months, if effective steps had been taken, much earlier.

I would, therefore, request the Government to take up expeditious action to revive this plant and start production of heavy water.

(v) Measures needed to check the spread of various diseases in tribal areas of Orissa.

SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir) : A sizeable population of Orissa comprise of tribals. Apart from the need to have a close watch and regular follow up action to raise their standard of living, it is also imperative that some special attention needs to be paid to give relief to them from the diseases they suffer. One such disease is the 'ring worm' disease or it is also called the poor man's disease. The patient becomes anemic, limbs get twisted, joints get swollen and gradually the patient dies a slow death. It is felt that oxygen content and the red corpuscles get reduced and the person dies. It is very painful. The incidence of this disease is as high as 11 per cent in Orissa although it is also prevalent in the neighbouring States of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. No positive cure has yet been found. It is necessary that the Centre should come forward and take up the research work and send experts to give proper medical aid to them. In addition, leprosy is also on the increase. We have one centre but the number of patients has gone up so high that it cannot cope with the problem. Coupled with this the tribals are suffering from a long disease. It is not asthma. It does not come in bouts, the breathing capacity gets weakened and slowly the patient approaches death. It is said that diseases of some ethnic section of our population should go unnoticed but we really want to help them. It is, therefore, necessary that not only the Centre should take up such cases on themselves, but

should ensure that World Health Organisation help, that is now being used only for cities, should appropriately be used in the tribal areas in setting up hospitals and research centres for the cure of diseases which affect the tribals.

(vi) Need to render financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh for providing drinking water to East Godavari district and also to clear Polavaram Project

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry) : In my constituency, Rajahmundry (A¹) there is a dry upland where no drinking water is available as there has been a continuous drought for the last 4 years. It is in Burugupudi and Kadium Assembly Constituencies and there are also other uplands in Assembly Constituencies of East Godavari District. The people of this area are greatly suffering for lack of drinking water for themselves and also for their cattle. I request the Central Government to provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh under the central scheme of ARWS for providing drinking water to the villages so that the State Government may take up the scheme and provide drinking water to the people of drought affected areas of these Assembly Constituencies. I also request that the polavaram project may be given early clearance so that water may be supplied to these drought affected areas on permanent basis. The Polavaram project will also supply water for the steel plant at Visakhapatnam and also to other towns enroute.

(vii) Need to re-examine the SC/ST reservation formula for Bengali families settled in Rajasthan

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Thousands of Bengali families had been up-rooted from Bangla Desh (the then East Pakistan) at the time of the Partition of our country in 1947. These families belonged to all classes and castes of non-Muslim population including the