

(iii) Need to provide relief to victims of hailstorms in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Valshali) : Several parts of Muzaffarpur district have been affected by hailstorm of February 23 which damaged the entire cultivation in the area. The worst affected villages are of Chitri, Jalapur, Madhopur, Shujwalpur, Nersa Gopalpur and Rajarampur of Dokda Panchayat and villages of Bihalwara Panchayat. Tobacco, wheat, makkha, todi and other cash-crops had been so severely damaged that for the whole year the villagers would have to face the problem of finding a livelihood. The damage by hailstorm, it may be recalled, came on top of the destruction caused by the floods during last monsoon. No grain is left in the fields. The rabi crop had been grown with help of loans and fertiliser seeds etc. obtained on credit, from which three per cent. was deducted as insurance premium. I request that immediate steps be taken to bring relief to these villagers and to compensate them suitably for the loss.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to give Saka Samvat the same importance as given to the Gregorian Calendar

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Falzabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the august House that the Saka Samvat calendar is not being given due importance. It is unfortunate that Gregorian calendar is being preferred over the Saka Samvat calendar.

While on the one hand the Central Government constituted a committee and gave its approval to the Saka Samvat calendar and directed the Central and State Government offices to use it in their correspondences, on the other hand all the programmes and holidays are fixed keeping in view the Gregorian calendar and not the Saka Samvat Calendar, which is not proper. The use of Saka Samvat has become a formality and is limited to Central Government letters and Gazette notifications only.

In this connection, I would like to request the Central Government to declare the first day of Saka Samvat (Chaitra 1, Saka 1911) a national holiday. Cultural programmes should be held and Doordarshan and AIR should broadcast special programmes to greet the new year every year.

[English]

(v) Need for allocation of sufficient funds for Modernisation of Sone Canal Project.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) : I draw the attention of the Central Government to the resentment prevailing among the farmers of the south central Bihar due to the uncertainty and delay in the implementation of the Sone Canal modernisation project. The entire agricultural economy of this area is solely dependent on this canal system. The decade-old socio-agrarian unrest in the part of Bihar is spearheaded by Naxalites and other associated groups who have taken maximum advantage of the utter backwardness of the region and the prevailing frustration among the rural youth. This traditional granary has hope of survival only if the Sone Canal system is modernised.

Various irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh and U. P. leave very little water in river Sone as Bihar's share. With the Canal system in total disarray due to lack of timely repairs and very meagre volume of water now available, it would be just impossible to meet the original commitments of irrigation.

It was in view of this situation that the modernisation project was to be taken up and completed during the 7th Plan with the World Bank assistance. All formalities like surveys, estimates and funding patterns have also been worked out by competent authorities. It is unfortunate that this project which has been accorded top priority both by Central and State Governments has not been taken up so far.

In the interest of the socio-economic and socio-political stability of this volatile

region of Bihar, I urge upon the Central Government to allocate sufficient funds and ensure the implementation of the project without further loss of time.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to consider the problems of refugees settled in Mahapur region of Betul district, M.P. in 1964

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra) : Sir, refugees from foreign countries settled in about 30 villages in the Mahapur region of Betul district in Madhya Pradesh, in 1964 are still living as refugees. They have no right to raise their voice. When no heed was paid to their problems they resorted to fast unto death. On 14-3-88 four persons, on 15-3-88 two persons and on 16-3-88 one person resorted to it. Nobody resorts to fast unto death as a matter of pleasure. But the irony was that even after resorting to it, their demands were not considered and they were put behind the bars. I therefore, urge the Government to order an enquiry into the matter and look into the demands of the displaced persons settled in these villages so that the truth is revealed. The Central Government bears all the expenses pertaining to their living and other requirements. It is, therefore, the duty of the Central Government to see whether the funds are being utilised for these displaced persons and whether they are getting proper facilities.

It is the State Government's duty to ensure that the money is spent on these displaced persons.

(vii) Need to start all the four units of the Tanda Thermal Power Project

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 440 MW capacity Tanda Thermal power Project has been under construction since long in my Parliamentary constituency falling in the Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The original cost of this project was Rs. 159 crores and its first units was scheduled to be commissioned in 1982. Though, by now, Rs. 300 crores have already been spent on this project yet the first unit has not so

far been commissioned. Due to this, while on the one hand more Government money is being spent, on the other hand, the State is facing serious power shortage due to delay in power generation. I, therefore, request the Government to start all the four units of Tanda Thermal Power Project early. Besides, the unemployed members of those families whose land was acquired for this project have not been employed in the project despite directions from Government. This has spread discontent among the farmers. It is, therefore, very necessary to accord priority to local unemployed people and members of affected families while making recruitment for this project.

[English]

(viii) Steps needed for the development of Kakinada Port into a Major Port

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada) : Kakinada Port on the East Coast is a natural port with a 'Sand Spit' covering a length of nearly 20 kms. causing Trancenil conditions in the Kakinada bay in an area of nearly 60 sq. km. At present nearly 1½ million tonnes of exports and imports are being handled there like a medium port with minor port facilities. The cost of Sand Spit with 20 kms. growth of Sand bar, if formed as a break-water, will cost nearly Rs. 500 crores. If the natural conditions of the port are utilised just by spending Rs. 100 crores, the port can be made into one of the major ports with deep water coming at least in 20 sq. kms. area. Such an economical proposition of making the Kakinada port into major port may be given priority in the interest of natural development along-with original development both commercially and strategically.

12.30 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1988-89 --
Contd.

[English]

(i) Ministry of Agriculture-Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up further discussion and voting on