

[Shri Kesharao]

Minister of Forests, Government of India visited the project site in May, 1978 to make an on-the-spot study. This irrigation Project is likely to irrigate one lakh acres of land and it will irrigate those areas which suffer from drought every year due to less rainfall. I request the Government of India to clear the Bawanthadi Project without delay and direct the State Government to implement it immediately so that the farmers of this area are saved from the drought every year. The farmers are very much worried, as there has been no rainfall at all.

(iv) Demand for effective measures to root out Corruption

*SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur): It is a matter of great concern that corruption is rampant in every walk of our life. The reasons of corruption are not far to seek. The root cause of corruption is the growing wantonness and desire to amass wealth. The growing corruption leads to exploitation. Therefore, it is very necessary to put an end to exploitation. Some stringent measures are necessary to stop corruption. We have to change the whole economic policy if we aim at checking corruption and thereby putting an end to exploitation.

I would like to give the following suggestions to achieve the above objectives:—

1. All the currency notes of Rs. 50/- and Rs. 100/- denomination should be demonetised and new currency notes of the same denominations should be introduced.

2. A ceiling should be fixed on moveable and immoveable property.

3. One family should be allowed to live in one house and nobody

should be allowed to let out a portion of this house or the full house.

I would urge the Government to implement these suggestions in order to check corruption.

[English]

(v) Demand for Setting up Rubber based Industries in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Kanya Kumari district is the most suitable place in the country for the establishment of rubber based industries or for a tyre factory. Per acre production of rubber here is the highest in the country. It occupies the second place in the total production of rubber—next only to Kerala. Kanyakumari district has been classified as industrially backward and high hopes have been aroused among the people by this classification. They are, however, frustrated and disappointed when they find that this acknowledgement of backwardness is on paper and has not been translated into action by establishing industries there. It is regrettable that not even a single industry, either in the public sector or in the private sector has been established there. The percentage of literacy there is high. The encouragement and patronage extended to some other backward areas has not been extended to this district. To obviate the prevailing acute unemployment and economic deterioration of this area, it is requested that a rubber based industry or a tyre factory be set up in Kanya Kumari district.

(vi) Demand for Setting up a public sector industry in Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Royalseema of Andhra Pradesh where Tirupati, Chittoor and Cuddapalu and Anantpur are located, happen to be the

most backward areas where there is a lot of unemployment and drought due to which these people are struggling for one square meal per day. The unemployed youths are not getting loans from the banks due to indifferent attitude of the banks causing a lot of concern and harassment for the youths. The weaker sections of these areas are being deprived of the said facility of loans due to lack of conviction on the part of bank officials. Keeping in view the helplessness of the people of Tirupati, I request the Government to consider setting up a public sector industry or an ordnance factory in Tirupati.

12.13 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

(vii) Demand for Converting Bitragunta Loco Shed into an Electric loco POH shed in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Bitragunta loco shed is located on the line from Vijayawada to Madras in Nellore district, A.P. State. This loco shed is one of the oldest with an investment of Rs. 50 crores; but it is being wasted as railways have not made out any plan for its utilisation. So the loco shed has become redundant and is to be closed. The shed could have been utilised by the railways by converting it for some other useful purpose, such as Periodical Overhaul Shed (POH) for electric engines. A demand to convert this loco shed into electric loco POH shed was made as early as in 1980 but nothing has been done so far. As there are plans to electrify the entire Vijayawada Division, it would be better if this loco shed is converted into Electric Loco POH shed. I request the Minister of Railways to look into it.

(viii) Demand for re-opening the Ashok Paper Mills, Darbhanga in Bihar

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): After the closure of Ashok Paper Mills in

Darbhanga a few years ago, Mithila region of North Bihar has virtually become industry less. This was a joint venture of the Governments of Assam and Bihar. Whereas the Assam Unit of Ashok Paper Mills has been rehabilitated after the implementation of Assam Accord, the Bihar Unit has been left in the lurch, throwing nearly four thousand workers out of job. Because of the closure of Ashok Paper Mills nearly thirty thousand people of Mithila region are on the verge of starvation. We have been urging upon the Central Government for the last two and a half years to make arrangements for the reopening of this Mill. Nearly a year ago, we were assured by the Union Government that serious efforts were being made to reopen this factory in collaboration with the Bihar Government and some financial institutions. This had made the people of Mithila region very hopeful, but nothing definite has been heard since then. I, therefore, earnestly request the Central Government to make serious efforts to rehabilitate Ashok Paper Mills and save thousands of people from starvation.

12.15 hrs.

PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wish to inform the House that we will take up item No. 7 motion for appointment of a Joint Committee immediately after the lunch break. Now we are taking up item No. 8, further consideration of Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill moved by Shri P. A. Sangma on the 30th July, 1987. Shri K. N. Pradhan may continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day also while speaking on the Bill I was drawing the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that he has fixed the amount of