

dam at the foothill in Nepal, i.e. at BARAHAKSHETRA.

A few years ago talks were held between the representatives of the Government of India and Nepal on the need to construct this dam. But for one reason or the other, the project remained shelved. As on date, our relations with Nepal are very cordial, and a time has come when this Project should be undertaken in right earnest. The dam, if completed, would generate hydro-electricity to the extent of 7000 mw. It is far cheaper as compared to thermal power. Power, if available to the people at such a cheap rate, would give a big push to the stagnant economy of Nepal and Bihar. Other Northern States of India may also be benefited. This will bring almost a revolutionary change both in agriculture and industry in both the countries. Additional employment opportunities might be generated for millions in these two countries. Besides, the dam would provide water to irrigate more than 40 lakh acres of land in the two countries. It would also check the menace of floods which is an annual feature. As such it is requested that the Government of India should initiate talks with the Government of Nepal at an early date and get this dam constructed.

(iii) Need to set up National Cultural Council as an apex body to co-ordinate the activities with State academies etc. to provide incentives to the writers of regional languages

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The Government of India and the Sahitya Academy have instituted a number of awards, prizes and incentives for the writers in the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as also in those languages which are recognised by the Sahitya Akademi but not included in the Eighth Schedule.

A number of regional and tribal languages spoken by over millions of people and aspiring for recognition by the

Government and the Central Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and National School of Drama are still not patronised and in spite of their having rich literary and theatre traditions and enough literary output at present, the writers working in them have still no recognition at the Central level. Some of them like Pahari in Himachal Pradesh are patronised by the State Akademies but they have limited resources.

It is, therefore, in the interest of Promotion of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the nation that these languages and dialects which are rich in folklore and also vibrant with literary activity at the moment are encouraged and patronised and a well-coordinated plan in consultation with the State Akademies is drawn up by the Sahitya Academy, Sangit Natak Akademy and the National School of Drama, the Publications Division, the National Book Trust, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, and the Department of Culture, in the Ministry of Education. The writers and scholars working in them should be given awards, incentives and prizes as also assistance for publication of their works and ensured of better circulation through translations so that the rich literary output in these languages continues to blossom.

I request the Ministers of Human Resource Development and Information and Broadcasting to coordinate their efforts by setting up National Cultural Council as an apex body to coordinate the activities with the Central and State Akademies, Government Department, voluntary Associations as also provide adequate incentive to the writers, scholars and performing artists.

(iv) Demand to connect Gopalpur-Bhubaneswar Vayudoot service and to extend it to Andhra Pradesh

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Berhampur (District Ganjam) is the second biggest city in Orissa with cultural herit-