

flowers in Chamoli district of Uttar Pradesh where unimaginable species of flowers used to blossom every year during the month of August are not flowering now. The local forest officers and environmentalists are of the opinion that it happened because this area was brought under Nanda Devi Biosphere and grazing by sheep and goats was banned with the result that quick growing alpine grass covered the area and completely marred the growth of flower plants. I would, therefore, request the Forest and Environment Ministry to conduct a study on the above and take urgent steps in this regard and save the extinction of rare species of flowers in the world-renowned valley which is a tourist paradise and a wonderful study place for the botanists.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to direct Rajasthan Government to stop recovery of amount spent on projects by Government from farmers served by the Indira Gandhi Canal Project.**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the construction work of Indira Gandhi Canal Project is being carried out with the special cooperation and assistance of the Central Government. Pucca Water Courses have been built in this project area. Apart from the estimated expenditure, the other expenses including the administrative expenditure, interest and compound interest have been added 5 to 6 times more than the principal amount.

The drains were constructed on the land of the farmer. Due to construction of these drains, the irrigational potential has increased and it will fetch more revenue in the form of water cess for the Government of Rajasthan. Then why the cost is being charged from the farmers? The State Government should bear this expenditure.

As and when any such project is constructed, the Government bears all its expenses and the farmer gets water from

the project. Irrigation cess is charged on the basis of crop, the recovery percentage of which is from 10 to 100 in Ganganagar district. But the farmers are getting more water after pucca drains have been constructed. The intensity which was estimated to be 62 per cent earlier has increased by more than 15 per cent. The farmer is paying irrigation cess at the same rate for the increased irrigated area. Earlier, when drains were not pucca, more money used to be spent and less crops produced. The farmer had to pay irrigation cess for nothing.

There is no objection if irrigation cess is collected from the farmer if more area of land is brought under irrigation on less expenses. But it is not justifiable to charge original cost from the farmer for this purpose. In a way, it is a double expenditure. It is the Government who will benefit with the increase in its irrigation capacity, but to collect the expenses of the project from the farmer is not at all justifiable under any principle. As has been done by Punjab and Haryana Governments, the Government of Rajasthan should also write off the cost incurred on drains. I have been bringing it to the notice of the House in every session since the last seven and a half years. The Government has taken a decision recently that drains will be constructed at Government expenses in phase-II of Indira Gandhi Canal. Besides a decision has already been taken to construct drains at Government expenses in Mahi Project Banswada. The Central Government has already decided that the Government will construct drains up to 6 hectares only. Therefore, it is not justifiable to collect the cost of drains from the farmers under Phase-I on a uniform pattern.

Therefore, keeping in view the importance of this issue, I would like to request the Central Government to instruct the State Government of Rajasthan to solve their problems without delay.

[English]

**Demand for increasing the quota of heavy cement for Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Government of India have reduced