

[Sh. Parag Chaliha]

rich and colourful culture, it is distressing to note that only once—or, at the most twice in course of decades—a cultural troupe from Assam has been selected for any exhibition and/or demonstration in foreign countries. In course of the series of the Festivals of India in UK, USA, France, Sweden, Japan and USSR, only once a cultural party from Assam was included for a programme under the Festival. Although many well-known experts in painting and graphic arts as also artisans with proved excellence in weaving, designing and handicraft are available in Assam, yet not one of them has ever been sponsored by the Government of India to visit or demonstrate abroad. While internationally famous maestros in the arts must necessarily be invited for displaying their artistry in other countries, it is also imperative that the inherent skill and acumen of the people of the rural and backward regions should be patronised for wider and fuller exposition of their talents, so that they feel inspired for furtherance of their artistic and professional skills.

The Department of Culture, is therefore urged to take urgent effective steps so as to allay the misgivings in this regard persisting in the minds of the people of Assam.

[Translation]

- (vi) **Need to set up thermal plants at Kapurdi and Jalepa for meeting the shortage of electricity in desert areas of Rajasthan**

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): A lignite based thermal plant of 2x210 MW capacity is being set up by the Neyvelli lignite corporation at Barsingsar area of Bikaner district in the State of Rajasthan. The power to be generated from that plant will be allotted to Rajasthan.

Arrangements should be made to ensure that the above thermal plant starts generation of power at the earliest possible and the State Electricity Board receives

electricity from that plant at the earliest.

Apart from this lignite deposits of about 10 crore tonnes have been found at Jalepa in Barmer district. Thermal plants of 1000 MW capacity each could be set up Kapurdi and Jalepa on the basis of these deposits.

There is acute shortage of power in the State as compared to the requirements of the people. It should, therefore, be ensured that the State of Rajasthan receives power from these thermal plants as it has been receiving from the plant at Barasingsar. The above work should be started within one year and the problem of power in the desert area should be solved accordingly.

[English]

- (vii) **Need to set up paper mills in Phulbani district of Orissa**

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Phulbani is one of the backward districts in Orissa. It was identified as a 'No Industry district' in 1982. After that, Government have taken steps to set up some industries in that district. But most of industries set up in that district were small units. It is regretted that those units have fallen sick. Phulbani is ideally located for setting up of forest-based units like pulp and paper mill. If such units are set up in that district, it will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem of that district. I, therefore, request that efforts should be made immediately to set up some major and medium paper mills in Phulbani district, Orissa.

13.31 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (TAMIL NADU) 1988-89...Contd.

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion and vot-