

[Shri Umakant Mishra]

I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and direct the Punjab Government to protect and implement the development programmes of Sanskrit and to encourage teaching of Sanskrit language in Punjab.

- (iv) **Need to take expert advice of botanists while planting trees to avoid harmful effect of trees**

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as a result of denuding the forests at large scale during the last few years, problems of severe drought, floods and ecological imbalances have arisen. The programme for conservation of forests and planting trees and maintaining ecological balance have been launched at national level in a planned manner in the country. It has been realised that all our activities, some how or the other, are affected by trees. It is, therefore, that the slogan of "Forest is the life" was raised. There are also complaints that tree plantation schemes in vogue can also cause harm besides providing benefit. For example, planting Eucalyptus trees reduces fertility of land and the water level goes down and creates water problem etc. It is, therefore, necessary that before planting of trees a thorough study of the site should be conducted and keep in view the utility of the trees to be planted and their other merits. Only then the trees should be planted. In order to execute this work in more effective manner, the co-operation of Ayurvedic experts should be sought for this purpose so that people may get important information and encouragement in planting trees of medicinal value.

I, therefore, demand from the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests that he may recruit Ayurvedic Experts in the Forest Department so that botany as propounded in Ayurveda is properly utilised and people can save themselves from unsuitable trees planted due to ignorance and which may prove harmful.

- (v) **Steps to control floods in North Bihar to save it from yearly devastation**

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Central Government should take concrete and permanent remedial measures to save Northern Bihar from devastating floods that occur every year. Central

Government and State Governments have spent crores on flood control measures since independence but these have not shown any positive results so far. The various schemes prepared till today for controlling floods have also proved to be ineffective. The various embankments along the side of the rivers have also not helped in checking the flood problem at all. All the schemes have been prepared without giving any proper thought. As a result of which thousands of acres of land has been submerged in the unprecedented floods and crops destroyed this year. Thousands of people and cattle have been washed away and three crops one after the other have been destroyed. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that for a permanent solution of the problem, height of embankments should be raised by 5 feet and pucca-embankments should be constructed. Canals should be dug at a distance of every 5 or 6 miles or the embankment should be removed. This is the demand of the people of Northern Bihar.

- (vi) **Need to direct the Bihar State Government to take steps to rehabilitate the Harijan and backward class people of Jahanabad Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar.**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : India is a vast country and droughts and floods affect some or the other part of this country every year. During the current year, the entire country has come under droughts or floods. It has put farmers and labourers to great difficulty. Progress of the development of the country has come to a grinding halt. It is imperative that a permanent solution to the problem of drought and floods should be found for rapid development of the country. Special schemes should be formulated for this purpose. In Bihar 17,000 villages of the 315 blocks of 28 districts have been affected by floods this year. Thousands of people have died. Several small villages have become non-existent. South Bihar has also been victim of floods like Northern Bihar this year. Jahanabad Parliamentary constituency is the worst affected area. Dozens of villages have been submerged in flood water. These include the villages of Mandai, Chunukpur, Arhir, Daulatpur-Hardaspur-Sujatpur of Ghosi Block, Lanjo-

Timilpur of Kako Block, Rostmachak of Kurtha Block and Malhi patti of Arwal Block. The entire population of these villages consist of harijans and backward classes of weaker sections of the society. The Central Government and the State Governments were informed in writing one year in advance in this regard. But no measures were taken to save the above mentioned villages. Now the people who have become shelterless have not been rehabilitated as yet. If steps are not taken to save the above mentioned villages this year also, then rehabilitation of its 15,000 people will become a big problem for the Government. I demand from the Government that State Governments should be directed to take steps to check the erosion of the river so that the above mentioned villages can be saved.

[English]

(vii) **Need to reduce the delay in clearance of out-station cheques by banks**

SHRI R. ANNANAMBI (Pollachi) : It is rather surprising that even after 40 years of Independence, our country has not yet progressed in the Banking system. Very often clearing of cheques of out station banks is taking longer time resulting in heavy loss to the depositors and other regular customers. It is imperative that a quick clearance system be evolved to see that out-station cheques are cleared in a maximum of two to three days so that the regular depositors and customers can plan their dealings and other transactions. For instance, a cheque drawn on Madurai Branch of Indian Overseas Bank has taken seven days to get cleared and that amount was credited after ten days of its deposit in the New Delhi Branch. It is requested that an effective and quick prompt system be evolved to see that clearance of cheques is effected in the shortest time.

(viii) **Need for immediate constitution of Statutory Development Board for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra**

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State is the most backward and under-developed area. People of Vidarbha region

have not got their due share in the development plans. Various Committees constituted by Government have also given the finding that there is tremendous backwardness, in this area. At the time of formation of Maharashtra and also merger of the Vidarbha region with the State, the fear which was prevailing in the minds of the people of likelihood of injustice was removed when assurance was given towards formation of Statutory Development Board under Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India. Under this Article, a special provision for the development of Maharashtra was made. In spite of assurances to the effect that the underdeveloped areas of the State would not suffer for want of attention in the matter of development, actually the area has not received a fair deal and the result is that the people in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State continue to suffer and languish in the matter of development in the economic, social, educational and industrial fields.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government that it is now high time that Government takes immediate steps towards formation of the Statutory Development Board for Vidarbha region.

12.22 hrs.

AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up further consideration of the Bill to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was saying yesterday that you have done a laudable job by removing the schedule from this Bill. Along with this, I was giving the example of refractory where silica, fire-bricks etc. are manufactured. The whole industry is divided into 4 or 5 parts and each of them is given on sub contract to separate contractors. So if silica mixing is done at one place, the brick-kiln work is undertaken