

like to draw the attention of the Government towards indiscriminate clearing of forests in Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan. Against the 25 per cent forest area in Rajasthan it is now 10 per cent as per the Government record but in reality, only 3 per cent jungles mostly in Kota and Chittorgarh Sirohi are left. At one time, Pratapgarh, Chhoti Sadari, Rawatbhatta and Basi Sad areas of Chittorgarh district were covered with thick forests but they are now being unauthorisedly cleared and no effective steps are being taken to check it. Not only this the Byapar Mandal of Rajasthan (which is a State Government department) is itself cutting green trees for making charcoal.

Recently in this district a contract for extracting gum from costly salar trees has been given by the State Government. According to some forest experts, the cuts made on the Salar trees to extract resin will cause damage to the trees and destroy them.

Therefore, I request the Government to intervene immediately to save salar trees and to stop the cutting of green wood for making charcoal. The Rajasthan is a drought prone state and brutal devastation of remaining forest will convert the Chittorgarh district into desert. The hilly and rocky desert is more terrible than sandy desert. The Central Government should immediately pay attention towards it and intervene in this matter.

[English]

(vii) Need to grant early clearance to the Super Thermal Power Project Proposed to be set up at Talcher in Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, because of some objections raised by the Environment Appraisal Committee of the Central Government to the proposed site for the 3000 MW Super Thermal Power Plant at Talcher in Orissa, undertaking construction of this essential power project for Orissa in the 7th Plan is being inordinately delayed.

Orissa State Pollution Control Board had given no objection certificate to this

project as early as 1984. The World Bank had also committed to fund the project.

Eminent scientists working in the Orissa State Pollution Control Board, meeting the objections raised by the Environment Appraisal Committee have said that the emission of sulphur dioxide could be controlled by high stack and if necessary by flame gas and by setting up a desulphurization plant. Appropriate furnace design could be thought of for taking care of nitrogen monoxide and nitrogen-dioxide.

In the face of the above noted existing scientific devices for pollution control, as the project is not being cleared, an apprehension is spreading among the people of Orissa that subtle efforts are being made to shift this project to some other State.

I urge upon the Government to remove this growing misapprehension from the minds of the people of Orissa that this project which is very vital for the rapid economic growth of a very neglected and backward State which is not at its final stage is not shifted from Orissa.

(viii) Need to build necessary infrastructure for the rapid economic development of Tripura

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, Tripura is a part of the North-Eastern Region. It is facing unprecedented problems political and economic and problems of national integration. This region is the most backward after 39 years of independence. To meet this challenge what is most important is to build up an infrastructure for rapid economic progress. Extension of railways not only to Tripura but to other States of this region is most important and vital from this aspect. Tripura has rich raw materials, plenty of gas and forest products; if utilised properly, can offer employment and living to 22 lakhs of its population. Even the formation of the North-Eastern Council was of no special benefit to the region. The Dinesh Singh Committee recommendations have not been implemented so far. The State of Tripura has at the moment only 34 kms of MG railways.