

[English]

- (iii) Need to adopt protective measures to safeguard the interests of farm workers in incapacitated in thresher accidents

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani) : Sir, every year more than 300 farm workers are incapacitated during the wheat harvesting season in Punjab. A majority of these accidents occur while working on wheat threshers. Last year alone nearly 1000 farm workers in Punjab, Haryana and western UP lost their limbs in thresher accidents. Most of the victims were migratory workers to the wheat belt. It has been estimated that upto now more than 10000 farm workers from Bihar, UP and Orissa have been maimed while working on wheat threshers. But the farm workers falling victims are not getting adequate help, compensation and rehabilitation facilities despite the existence of many Acts in those States. Unless some suitable measures to protect their interests are taken, the migrant workers will continue to suffer. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt some protective measures by the Central Government to safeguard the interest of these farm workers. The Government of India should direct the concerned State Governments to insure the entire migratory labour force working in these States. Suitable compensation should be paid to the victims of threshers accidents. The selling of sub-standard threshers should be totally prohibited. At the same time, I request the Central Government to devise methods to prevent the farmers from using threshers in an unsafe mode. Since this issue concerns the question of life and death of several thousand workers engaged in the farms in the country, I demand immediate action by the Government of India to protect these workers.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to develop piparhawa village as a tourist centre

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : The place 'Lumbini' in Nepal bordering India has been regarded till now the birth place of Lord Buddha, apostle of peace and humanity in the whole world.

In the excavation operations carried out in recent years by the Archaeological Survey of India, some remains of palace have been found in Piparhawa village inside the Indian territory which confirms the fact that the capital Kapilvastu of king Shudhodhan, the father of Lord Buddha was situated in Piparhawa itself. In view of the importance of that place, discussions on the blueprint to develop that area have been held from time to time with the Government, but the Government have not taken any step to implement the scheme to develop this area of international importance.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Tourism that tourist bungalows and an airport should be constructed there to develop the area of historical importance as a tourist centre. Immediate steps should also be taken to construct a museum for preserving rare and authentic objects found in the excavations.

- (v) Need to give early clearance to the proposal for the setting up of a Cement plant at Jeypur in Orissa

***SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS** (Jajpur) : The Orissa Industrial Development Corporation has a proposal to set up a cement plant at Jeypur in the State of Orissa. All the infrastructural facilities to establish a cement plant are available at the proposed site. A railway siding is there near the proposed location. But it is regrettable that the Railway authorities have not yet given clearance to set up the cement plant at that place. It is unfortunate that the proposal is still pending with the railway authorities.

The proposed cement plant is going to be set up in a backward district, Koraput in Orissa. It is mostly inhabited by tribals. Therefore, it will go a long way in providing employment to the local educated youths if the cement plant is established at that place. But the cement plant cannot be established at that place without the clearance of the Ministry of Railways as the proposed site is located near the railway station.

As such, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to minutely review the proposal