

(vi) Need to take up with Government of Nepal the Construction of an embankment and a reservoir in the areas of river Bhutahi Balan in Nepal

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : As mentioned in this august House several times in the past, North Bihar is ravaged every year by floods caused by rivers which originate in the Himalayas in Nepal. One such river is BHUTAHI BALAN. It enters India at a place called LAUKAHI in the Madhubani district of Bihar. This is one of the most densely populated areas in the State.

An embankment has been built near LOUKAHI BALAR to check the fury of the river. This embankment has, however, become ineffective in view of the fact that BHUTAHI BALAN has changed its course in the last two years. There cannot be any relief to the local people unless an embankment is immediately constructed in that area of Nepal through which BHUTAHI BALAN flows.

If an embankment is made alongwith a reservoir in Nepal, it will not only solve the flood problem of Mithila, but will generate enough electricity which will benefit both Nepal and India. Besides, the tamed water can be used for irrigation purposes also.

It is, therefore, urged that the Central Government should initiate discussion with the Government of Nepal immediately in this regard.

(vii) Need to take steps for re-opening of National Herald and Quami Awaz

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : It is a matter of serious concern that the Government is not taking any steps for the re-opening of National Herald and Quami Awaz, where workers have not got their salary since April 1986,

and many are facing suspension orders. In fact, one worker has died a few days ago. Even the Provident Fund money of the workers has not been accounted for. The Ministry of Labour is conspicuous by its inaction in the matter.

The employees of two language agencies, 'Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati are facing serious problems, and a large number of them remain unemployed. No steps have been taken by the Government, inspite of assurances. Union activists have been specially made target's of attack by the management. Well-known Urdu journalist, Shahid Siddiqui was arrested for an article written by him a long time back. Journalists of 'Economic & Political Weekly' are facing prosecution. The recommendations of the Press Commission are not being implemented. The services of some journalists are reported to have been terminated in Bombay. The witch hunt against the activists of the Unions continues unabated. The Delhi Union of Journalists and other organizations have been forced to raise their voice of protest, and to agitate for the removal of their grievances.

I call upon the Government to look into the matter with all seriousness, and take early action in the matter.

(viii) Need to take steps for restoring normalcy in Darjeeling district of West Bengal and for ensuring normal flow of Commodities to Sikkim

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : The situation in Darjeeling district of West Bengal has worsened to such an extent that there is practically no law and order in that region. The district administration seems to be in a shambles. Anti-social elements are indulging in loot and arson, and a reign of terror is being let loose. Prime suspects are yet to be apprehended. Houses are being burnt, and many innocent people have lost their lives. Hundreds of people rendered homeless, have taken shelter in bordering areas of Sikkim,