

mittees have in the past gone into the question of backwardness of eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh and have submitted their reports in this regard. Once our late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was so swayed on hearing the pathetic description of backwardness of this area and the plight of its inhabitants as told by some of the hon. Members in this House that tears rolled down his cheeks.

Gorakhpur division is the most backward area of this eastern region with Gorakhpur city as its headquarters. Density of population in this division is 608 per sq. Km. Majority of the people of this area are forced to live below the poverty line due to illiteracy and small land holdings. With a view to improving their lot and eradicating unemployment, it is imperative that rapid industrialisation of this area should take place. But I am pained to say that Gorakhpur district has not so far been included in the list of districts which have been declared backward. Neither subsidy scheme for attracting new entrepreneurs has been extended to this district nor a provision for capital subsidy has been made by the State Government.

An inter-ministerial committee was set up by the Planning Commission to identify the backward districts. Although its report has already been received, no action has been taken to implement it.

Due to non-completion of work relating to gauge conversion on Bhatui-Varanasi section under the N.E. Railways, products of headloom, which is an important industry of the area employing lakhs of people, are not reaching the market for sale. Rise in prices of cotton yarn and decline in production is attributed to be the second reason for this misery. Frequent floods and drought also hit this area.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government should provide all those facilities which are available to other backward districts to all the districts of this area including Gorakhpur and at least one heavy industry under the public sector should be set up in each of these districts.

[English]

- (vi) Need to provide broad gauge line from Tirupathi to Katpadi via Pakala

SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI (Chittoor) : Sir, a broad-gauge line from Tirupathi to Katpadi via Pakala is a long pending issue. The earlier MPs from Chittoor have also represented several times. Chittoor district is a backward area since British regime. Now all trains from North to South pass from Tirupathi to Katpadi through Arkonam. For goods transport, the only link between South-North is metre-gauge in Katpadi-Tirupathi line. My request to the hon. Minister is to sanction immediately a parallel broad-gauge Katpadi-Tirupathi line which will reduce the distance by seventy kilometres and will also save fuel. Rayalaseema is a backward area which requires to be developed. This broad-gauge line will also give employment to rural poor who are now suffering from acute drought.

- (vii) Need to fix the price of oil seeds in accordance with the percentage of Oil Content therein

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, as a measure to increase production of oil seeds, the farmers must have a good market price in accordance with the oil content percentage which changes every year in relation to less or good rainfall. In this connection, it is very important that Government of India should declare a policy and announce that the oil content percentage will be the deciding factor for fixing the price of the oil-seeds. This should be done at the beginning of each sowing season. This will help the farmers to get remunerative price for their produce without any exploitation by the millers and traders.

- (viii) Need to give Hill Compensatory Allowance to all Government employees irrespective of altitude

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The Central Government employees working in hill States like Himachal Pradesh but stationed at places of an altitude less than one thousand metres are not being given the Hill compensatory allowance, though these places are in fact as costly as the Hill Stations with an altitude of

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

one thousand metres or more because of various factors like remoteness, difficult geographical terrain, lack of essential commodities and various other facilities. Their counterparts in the State services are getting this allowance irrespective of height. The Fourth Pay Commission had recommended their case for consideration of the Government.

I therefore request the Minister of Finance to sanction H.C.A. to all such employees irrespective of height, but working in hill States/region recognised as such by the Planning Commission and end this discrimination with them.

12.31 hrs.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1987-88—Contd.**

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Shrimati Dikshit, you wanted to inform the House about something.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) :** Sir, I would like to suggest that we should sit through Lunch hour because we have to complete the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** I think the House will accept your suggestion. Now, I go to the next item, that is, Item No. 15, regarding Further Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1987-88 and also further discussions on cut motions moved by the Members on 2nd December 1987. Now, Mr. Somnath Rath, to speak.

**SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for 1987-88. Sir, our budget is very much connected with the behaviour of monsoon and because of the drought situation, we have to spend about Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 crores to fight the drought situation and there is already a cut

in Defence budget upto Rs. 250 crores at a juncture when the USA Congress cleared 4.02 billion dollars of military aid and economic aid package for Pakistan, violating US regulation regarding non-proliferation of nuclear weapon equating India with Pakistan. The Pakistan Government is also getting about 100 tanks from China. It has modernised its navy with sophisticated weapons. Under this circumstances, it is to be viewed how our long borders can be defended. Of course, we have got full confidence on our army.

Sir, in the budget, there is a provision for supply of power to the rural areas. But steps should be taken to curb the loss of the power. In the villages the REC and SPA scheme that are in vogue to supply current to the rural areas, should be implemented faithfully in the States. Under this scheme, though the villages are to be electrified, I am sorry to state that these villages are not electrified. But the money has been spent. For example, I can speak about my own constituency. Money has been granted under the SPA scheme to Gram Panchayats like Koklaba, Tilising and Gereda. But the scheme has not at all been implemented so far in these areas. We do not know what has happened to the amount that has been allotted for the scheme. Similarly, the drought amount that is given to the States should be spent for the implementation of permanent schemes. If not for major and medium irrigation this amount can as well be spent on minor irrigation and of watersheds, which will also provide the relief work for the drought affected areas. Unless the amount is spent for permanent measure, we have to give year after year relief to these drought affected areas. At the same time, we must see that the drought affected areas are provided with funds taking into account the severity of drought and the funds should not be given to the States for distribution as they like. Sir, our Prime Minister has rightly said that the implementation of the scheme should be done at the district level and unless it is implemented at the district level, at the grass root level, the schemes may not only be failing but also the beneficiaries may not be receiving the benefit meant for them.

In Orissa, the Ganjam District is worst affected, and I congratulate the Agriculture Minister for having said on the floor of this House that special assistance should be given