

principle to do away with sales tax and octroi tax all over the country. But because of opposition from the States and the urban bodies for their loss of income the same has not yet been implemented. These taxes are responsible to push prices of several commodities higher. Uniformity in prices at different places is also not possible due to variation in tax percentage. Further, administration of these taxes also gives rise to corruption.

It is, therefore, imperative that objections of States and urban bodies should be suitably disposed of through negotiations on alternative sources of their income and these two taxes need to be abolished forthwith.

[*Translation*]

(ii) Need to allocate separate funds to tackle the water scarcity problem in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is every likelihood that unprecedented drinking water problems may hit the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh this summer. Due to lack of rains this year, new springs of water have not shot up and the water of the old springs has already started drying up. There is a strong feeling that by the end of this year or by the beginning of next year, drinking water will not be available in 60 percent villages of these areas.

Most of the drinking water schemes formulated with the help of financial institutions like World Bank etc. in these areas are not functioning or will stop functioning near future owing to mishandling.

River or local water springs are the only sources of water in these areas. There is no possibility of availability of underground water also in these areas.

Therefore, there is a need to look and understand the drinking water crisis in these areas in district manner. The Central Government should make a list of villages struck by the problem of drinking water and start work after preparing a strategy with regard to water supply in order to solve this problem. The Central Government should earmark sufficient economic assistance for these areas for the purpose.

(iii) Demand for conversion of Shahganj-Ballia MG Railway line into broad gauge line

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government to the districts of Uttar Pradesh viz., Azamgarh, Maunath Bhanjan, Ballia and Gajipur where world famous goods are produced and thousands of people of the aforesaid and other nearby districts visit these places. Various goods are sent out from here but due to the lack of transport facilities a lot of problems have to be faced in movement of these goods and the people. The manufactured goods, if not sent outside have a direct effect on their demand and in the absence of proper resources and the broad gauge line, the project to install the thermal power project in Dohrighat is hanging in the balance. If means of transport were made available here, then the manufactured goods could surely be sent to far-off places and their demand would have increased day by day and by the installation of thermal power in Dohrighat, Bihar, Gorakhpur, Jaunpur, Ballia, Gajipur, Dewria, Basti and other districts would have got power, thus enabling to set up industries in these areas.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate action in order to convert the Mamath Bhanjan, Dohrighat, Ballia line from Shahganj into broad gauge line for the development of manufactured goods of this area, for industrial growth and

[Sh. Raj Kumar Rai]
installation of thermal power station in Dohrihat, and that this may kindly be included in the Eighth Five-year Plan.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to pay interim relief to workers of public sector units of West Bengal

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): About 1,00,000 workers of the central public sector units in West Bengal started an indefinite strike from 14-12-1987 to press their demand for interim relief, which was given by the Government to officers of these units.

The strike call had been given jointly by nine central trade unions including INTUC, CITU, AITUC.

The proposed strike originally scheduled from November 23, 1987, had been deferred in view of the Union Labour Minister's assurance of looking into the demand.

When the officers and executives are getting interim relief then why are the workers not getting this relief?

I request that steps be taken by the Government to mitigate the grievances of workers of public sector units of West Bengal

(v) Need for special allocation of funds in Union Budget for Telengana region

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): In Andhra Pradesh there are three regions, viz., Rayalaseema, Andhra and Telengana. There is no big project in Telengana districts except Pochampadu for which construction work had started long back but has not been completed so far.

There are proposals for some medium irrigation projects like Bhima project but not even a single project has started. The work on all the projects is very slow because of meagre funds. No funds have been allotted for Sri Ramapada Sagar Project in the last three years though the plan allocations were made to complete it under Plan schemes. All this adds to the sufferings of the region. It is, therefore, requested that a special allocation may be made in the Union Budget for Telangana region for the proper development of the region, and a separate budget provision may be made in the State Budget also.

[*Translation*]

(vi) Demand to develop Chitrakoot and Mahiyar as tourist centres

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Satna Lok Sabha Constituency, various historical places, which are important from tourism point of view too, are lying without any development. Places like Chitrakoot and Mahiyar, which are the centre of attraction of the tourists due to their historical, cultural and religious importance, have neither been fully developed nor do the domestic as well as foreign tourists get all the facilities during their visit there. Chitrakoot has not been developed because it lies half in Madhya Pradesh and half in Uttar Pradesh. There is no railway station in Madhya Pradesh by this name for the convenience of passengers coming to Chitrakoot, whereas if the passengers get down at Majhagawan then they will get more facilities in starting their religious rituals. Mahiyar also awaits a similar development.

The historic temple of Lord Shankar also comes in the Chitrakoot Legislative Assembly constituency where a number of tourists visit for 'darshan' and blessings, and as there is no bridge on the only road there, the tourists face a lot of problems during