

[*Translation*]

- (iv) Need to sanction sugar factories in Cooperative sector in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garchirole districts of Vidarbha in Maharashtra.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Vidarbha is a very backward region of Maharashtra. Although the farmers are hardworking, yet their economic condition is pitiable. The farmers of Western Maharashtra are comparatively well off. This is mainly because of the development of Sugar mills in these areas. Whereas in Western Maharashtra there are at least 10 mills run on cooperative basis, in every district, there is not even one such mill on an average in the Vidarbha region.

In 1982, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who was then the Prime Minister, had assured a delegation of Members of Parliament from Vidarbha, that permission would be given for the setting up of at least two sugar factories in every district of this region. But this promise is not being fulfilled due to the proposed new Sugar policy. Every farmer of Vidarbha is anxious for the establishment of such sugar mills and he is even prepared to become a shareholder. It is also with the same hope that he has undertaken the work of sugarcane plantation in a big way. But due to the delay in the issue of licenses, these poor and hardworking farmers have to suffer great losses.

In order to remove the backwardness of Vidarbha region and to provide relief to the farmers, it is essential to set up sugar mills in the cooperative sector. In view of this situation, I would request the Minister of Civil Supplies to immediately accept the demand for the establishment of at least two sugar mills on an average in the districts of Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garchirole on a cooperative basis. Besides, other proposals which are pending with the Centre must also be cleared.

[*English*]

- (v) Demand for a tribunal to resolve the dispute regarding distribution of Cauvery waters.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South) : Sir, water as one

of the five constituents (*Pancha Bhootha*) of all the living beings holds immense importance. In our country, perhaps for this reason, several rivers like Ganga and Cauvery have been given the status of the mother. But, this importance has so far been not accorded in our Constitution. The entries in the List (Central List—Item 56) and List II (State List—Item 17) of the VII Schedule of the Constitution do not lay it emphatically. There are thus conflicts and clashes on the river water disputes between various States.

One of such disputed issues is sharing of the Cauvery water between the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondichery. The Cauvery Basin constitutes 40 per cent of the total irrigated area in Tamil Nadu and contributes 25 per cent of the rice production in the State.

However, in view of the construction of three reservoirs across the major tributaries by the Karnataka State, without prior concurrence, has reduced the availability of water to Tamil Nadu almost to a negligible degree. The agriculture operations in the Cauvery Delta have not commenced till date and more than five lakhs of agricultural labourers are without work, facing starvation, while the economy of Thanjavur and Trichy districts is on virtual collapse. There is impending threat of an agitation from the farmers.

I, therefore, request the Government to please immediately constitute a Tribunal to decide the whole issue and also initiate action to nationalise the river water in the country for bringing them under a Central Agency.

- (vi) Demand for provision of a sum of rupees fifty Crores per annum by central Government for repairs and reconstruction of old buildings in Bombay.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Byculla, Parel, Nagpada, Worli are Central Areas of city of Bombay and about twenty lakh residents of Bombay are staying in 18,000 old and dilapidated buildings. Majority of them are textile workers, Government servants, poor and middle class working people. All these

[Dr. Datta Samant]

buildings are more than fifty years old and need repairs very badly. During the last ten years, more than hundred buildings collapsed and two hundred and thirty five persons died and seven hundred and thirty persons injured. And at present, one hundred and fifty buildings are in a dangerous condition and may collapse any time. Maharashtra Government has appointed a House Repair Board and they are carrying out some work but funds are inadequate and so no progress could be made. Central Government is getting about twenty five hundred crores of rupees per year by means of taxes from Bombay. I, therefore, request the Central Government to make provision of fifty crores of rupees per year for repair and reconstruction of old buildings in Bombay.

- (vi) Demand for rehabilitation of workers rendered jobless owing to closure of several textile mills in Coimbatore and taking over these mills.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore) : In my constituency of Coimbatore, several small textile mills, namely, Janardhana Textile Mills, Vasantha Textile Mills, Srihari Textile Mills, etc. have been closed down for the last three years or so. Due to closure of these small textile mills, about 10,000 workers belonging to weaker section have been thrown out of job and they have not been able to find any alternate means of livelihood. These workers have been facing untold sufferings and most of them are on the verge of starvation. Already about 60 workers have died recently and the situation is getting worse day by day.

I would, therefore, request the Union Labour Minister kindly to intervene and instruct the State Government to rehabilitate the poor workers. I would also humbly submit to the Union Minister of Textiles kindly to consider to take over these small mills and make them viable so that the textile workers can get employment in their respective mills. Sir, it is a very serious problem and the Central Government should take immediate steps to save these poor workers.

[Translation]

- (viii) Demand for changing the site of the proposed birdsanctuary under Kabar Lake Scheme.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balija) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the arable land of a number of poor farmers falls in Kabar lake area of Begusarai district. Recently, the Central Government has taken a decision to convert this lake into a birdsanctuary. Hundreds of farmers will be affected from this decision. It has created a problem for them in earning their livelihood. It is not justified to convert the arable land of these poor farmers into Birds Sanctuary. In Cheria and Wariapur which fall in my constituency and in Assembly segment of Barbari, about 4,000 acres of land of the farmers remain water-logged. The part of the lake which remains submerged upto the depth of 5 to 6 feet can be developed into a Birds Sanctuary. The rest of the land where there is less water, can be made available to the farmers for cultivation by draining out the water. Thus the farmers can be saved from starvation. The farmers are much agitated here over this problem. This agitation may turn into a farmer's movement any time.

Therefore, I request the hon Minister that where there is less water in Kabar lake, it should be drained out to make the land available to the farmers to prevent them from starvation, and the deep water area should be converted into birdsanctuary.

[English]

- (ix) Demand for steps to settle the long pending border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka states.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : The Border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka States has been pending for almost three decades. The one-man Commission namely Mahajan Commission which was appointed to make recommendations with a view to solving the dispute submitted its report to the Union Government in August, 1967. It was neither accepted by Maharashtra nor by the Union Government. The people