

State was producing electricity more than its requirement. These days, the demand for electricity has increased tremendously and as a result, the cities like Bangalore and Mysore are suffering from power-cuts which are for more than twelve hours. This has severely affected the industries in the State.

Under these circumstances, it has become very essential to set up a huge project in the State to generate power. The State Government has requested the Centre to set up an atomic power plant at 'Kaiga' in the North Canara district. The State has already sanctioned 3,500 acres of land for this purpose.

At Kaiga, there was only one village and the people of this village have already been shifted to another place. All safety measures have been taken. After completion, this plant can generate 3,000 million watt electricity. Kali river hydro-electric project can serve as the cooling station.

Hence, I request the Centre to go into the matter seriously and to set up an atomic power plant at Kaiga.

12 15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

(iv) Clearance of Projects based on recommendations of National Wastelands Development Board

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsore) : Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The National Wastelands Development Board has recommended, commercial plantation on Wastelands in the country along with many other recommendations for proper and suitable utilisation of Wastelands in the country, which if implemented will not only give a boost to our economy but also would be a great help to keep the environment of the country in a very good shape. The recommendation of the Board mainly aimed, primarily based in encouraging industry to raise captive plantations by afforesting Wastelands to develop effective

alternative sources of raw materials, required by forest based industries. Besides, the industry is also to be encouraged to undertake plantation on wastelands and to supply fuel wood and fodder to the rural community. Encouragements, to private industries to do this, is proposed to be provided by granting special permission under the forest and land use laws, offering concessional finance and through other fiscal measures.

Encouraged by the recommendations of the National Wastelands Board, many private industries in the country, have applied to the several State Government, to lease out such wastelands for commercial plantations and set up industries based on forest products, which if accepted, would go a long way to strengthen our economy and preserve environment not only in and around such converted wastelands, but also in the entire country. These proposals of the State Governments have not been cleared, causing a complete halt to this significant proposition.

I would, therefore, very earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister for Environment and Forest to accord clearance to these proposals and necessary decision may be announced on the floor of the House accepting all the recommendations of the National Wasteland Board.

(v) Demand for the same Pay Scales to Pharmacists in Union Territories as have been recommended for Central Government Pharmacists by the Fourth Central Pay Commission

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The pay scales of Union Territory Pharmacists and those in Central Government were one and the same till the Fourth Central Pay Commission report was released. The Fourth Central Pay Commission missed to mention in its report that the Union Territories' Pharmacists will also draw the same scale as that recommended for the Central Government Pharmacists although the recruitment rules, nature of job and qualifications of all the Pharmacists are the same. In all fairness, this disparity is un-warranted and aimed

at diluting the sense of dedication. Although a Diploma in Pharmacy is the minimum requirement for registration as Pharmacist and practice the profession of Pharmacy—the involvement of the profession in the lofty theme of "Health for all by 2000 A.D." is well recognised, Pharmacists have been given step motherly treatment by the Fourth Central Pay Commission both in terms of pay scales and avenues of promotion in comparison to other diploma holders. The Pay Commission in its report has stated that "The salary should be satisfactory enough to retain him in his job and encouraging to seek his promotional carrier in his service; the Pay scales have to be such that it may not give rise to a sense of deprivation or frustration in the employee on comparing his lot with his competitors; the effort should be to provide as far as possible comparable emoluments for comparable work". In this context, the disparity between the Pharmacists working in Central Government Deptt. and the Union Territories should not be there; the pay scales should be one and the same. I earnestly request the Central Government to study this anomaly and do the needful to wipe out this anomaly at an early date.

[Translation]

(vi) Financial assistance for afforestation in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost everyone accepts the importance of intensive afforestation and soil conservation in the places of origin of the rivers flowing in the gangetic or Yamuna plain in order to protect these areas from flood havoc, to maintain the depth of these rivers and to protect the dams from siltation. But the efforts so far made to mobilise required resources for these works have been negligible. Nominal allocation has been made for this purpose for the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and that too is being made available by effecting cuts from the funds earmarked for other items of work whereas not only the State but also the country benefits more than the region itself from the afforestation of this area. Neither the State Government nor the Planning Commission makes specific allocation by preparing separate schemes for this purpose in view of its importance.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Planning Commission should prepare a national scheme for intensive afforestation and soil-conservation in these areas and make funds available from the national exchequer as per its requirement.

[English]

(vii) Demand for revival of Crop Insurance Scheme in Rajasthan

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Crop Insurance Scheme has been approved by the Union Government and the State Governments have been enjoined upon to implement it. Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme is essential and indispensable for survival of farmers of our nation. The Scheme covers the risk of damage to the crops by natural calamities, that is, cold wave, hail storms, pest disease or drought. It is generally observed that on an average the crops of the farmers in our country once within the span of three years are damaged by natural calamities.

In the existing conditions in our country the implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme is a guarantee for timely economic help to the farmers whose crops are damaged by natural calamities. Government of Rajasthan introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme in the State but the Scheme has been withdrawn this year.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to enjoin upon the Government of Rajasthan State to revive the Crop Insurance Scheme in the State immediately.

[Translation]

(viii) Demand for increasing financial assistance to Bihar for development of irrigation facilities by taking into account district as a unit

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Bihar is the most backward State in the country in the matter of irrigation. Yield per hectare in this State is far less than the average yield in the country. The main reason for this is that a very negligible percentage of fertile land gets irrigation facilities and that too not for the whole year.