

[Translation]

(viii) Need for early completion of Banspani-Jakhpura railway line in Orissa

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar)*: Sir, the Railway Ministry has approved the proposal for construction of a railway line linking Jakhpura with Banspani over a length of 179 kms. As a part of this programme, rail line has been laid between Jakhpura and Daitari. Unless the line is completed, iron ore from Barajamda sector cannot be exported to Paradeep over the shortest route. At present, the ore is exported by a roundabout route of 640 kms. If Jakhpura-Banspani line is completed the distance will be cut to half, viz., 320 kms. The transport cost will also be reduced correspondingly. This will mean a lot for promoting iron ore export through Paradeep. With reduced transport cost, the MMTC can offer higher discount to induce foreign buyers to take ore from Paradeep. The increase in the export of iron ore through Paradeep will help the growth of mining industry in Orissa. On the other hand, the decline in the export will result in complete closure of non-captive private mines. This will throw out of work thousands of Adivasi families, who depend upon activities connected with iron ore mining. The completion of Banspani-Jakhpura line is, therefore, of special significance to the tribal population. The Government of India, should, therefore, review the question of completion of the rail line from a wider perspective and accord high priority to this Project.

[English]

(ix) Need to alleviate the sufferings of people living in Khurda and Nayagarh (Orissa) due to acute scarcity of drinking water.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): All the drought-prone districts of Orissa, including Panchayat Sanutu areas of Khurda and Nayagarh sub-divisions are now faced with an acute drinking water scarcity with all sources having dried up. Many of the surface wells have gone dry, while levels in other sources have dropped abnormally in the affected districts. Acute water shortage has forced the Tribals living on hill slopes to

desert their dwellings and shift to the plains. Again, prolonged power cuts in the State have further added to the misery of the people. Even regarding, the Tubewells which were sunk under the 20-Point Programme for supplying drinking water, 30 per cent of them had either gone dry or had become non-functional due to poor maintenance. I urge upon the Central Government to under take special measures immediately on war footing for alleviating the sufferings of millions of people of Orissa for overcoming this drinking water crisis.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)

1985-86

[English]

Ministry of Commerce and Supply—Contd.

MR CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

I will call the hon. Minister to reply at 2-45 P.M. in view of the fact that the Discussion on Sri Lanka has to take place at 4 P.M. Therefore I request hon. Members to be very brief.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: How much time is left? The time allotted is 6 hours.

MR CHAIRMAN: The Minister will start his reply at 2-45 P.M. in any case.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: How much time is left?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: 3 hours.

MR CHAIRMAN: Balance left is 3 hours, 6 minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Then, the reply will not be today.

MR CHAIRMAN: Shri Ananda Pathak.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Note on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.