

If proper steps are not taken, Sone belt of Bihar which is considered a rice-bowl, will be converted into a desert. In the meanwhile, the water-tax this year should be condoned and proper steps should be taken to release water. This is partly not possible because of the damages in the canal, which causes loss and which has been assessed by World Bank and they have suggested a scheme of Rs. 1,200 crores. This scheme should be implemented without any delay.

[Translation]

- (ii) **Need to entrust the erstwhile Tagore Hospital of Dandakaranya Project to the National Institution of Communicable, Delhi**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): After the completion of Dandakaranya Project, Belladila or Bhilai Steel Plant refused to run the Kondagam Tagore Hospital. As it is, the local people had a doubt in their mind that once the administration of the hospital is transferred to State Government, there will be a drastic fall in the quality of its functioning. Though the Central Government has approved to meet the entire expenses of the hospital for the next 5 years the entire management of the hospital has been dislocated since it came under the charge of the State Government.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to run this hospital as a branch of the centrally administered National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to set up electronic industries in Mithila region of Bihar**

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhunjharpur): Mithila region of North Bihar is one of the most backward regions of the country. There is no industry in this region worth the name. The investment by the Central Government in this region is negligible. This has retarded

the economic growth of Mithila and has pushed up unemployment which is resulting in social unrest. The situation needs to be changed.

The Central Government has a scheme to encourage electronic industry. A large number of concessions have been announced in the last two Budgets for the electronic industry. The advantages of electronic industry are many, the most important being total lack of pollution. Mithila is the most suitable place for setting up large number of electronic industries. This will, on the one hand, solve the unemployment problem and on the other improve the economic condition of the region.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to take initiative in setting up some electronic industries in Mithila. Besides, it should sanction special allocation for Bihar so that it may set up a chain of electronic industries in the Mithila region.

- (iv) **Demand for conversion of State Highway between Kadir and Anantapur into a National Highway**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): There is a cause way across river 'Chitravathi' on State Highway between Kadir and Anantapur. This cause way was very badly damaged this year due to heavy rains. Traffic could not pass through this cause way as there was heavy down pour and the river was in spates for three or four days and traffic was held up.

It is requested that steps may be taken immediately for converting this state highway into a National Highway and construction of a bridge across the river 'Chitravathi' may be taken up at an early date.

- (v) **Need to include cultural troupes from Assam in the Festivals of India held abroad**

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): Although Assam is noted for its traditionally