

as it is cut off from the big business centres of the country. It would be injustice with the people of North Bihar if the Rail Ministry keeps on getting renewed time and again this approved project and delays sanctioning of funds for its commencement.

The Government is, therefore, urged upon to provide funds for the construction of Darbhanga-Samastipur broad gauge and Sakri-Hasanpur railway lines without further delay and the work on these lines should be undertaken on priority basis.

[*English*]

(iii) **Demand for expansion of Nagpur Airport**

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Sir, in view of the inadequate accommodation at the Nagpur airport, there is an urgent need for its expansion. There is no verandah for the people to sit and during rains, people are seen huddled in the small porch. The question of its expansion and providing basic amenities at the Nagpur airport has been brought to the notice of the Government several times and assurances had also been given but nothing has been done so far. In view of the increasing number of passengers, I request the Minister of Civil Aviation to ensure that all modern facilities are provided at Nagpur airport and its expansion done at the earliest.

12.18 hours

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(iv) **Financial assistance to Odissi Research Centre in Orissa for sustaining the research-oriented activities of the Centre**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of Orissa have set up Odissi Research

Centre for promoting and propagating the Odissi dance form and conducting research in various facets of this rich cultural tradition of our country.

Over the past couple of years, the Centre has done commendable work in the codification, documentation and dissemination of the Odissi dance form and for replenishment of the Odissi repertoire. It has also started intensive training of Odissi Gurus from all over the country. A two year programme of intensive in-house training in Odissi dance and music for middle level artists is also being conducted by the Centre. Valuable video-taping of about 200 hours on the various aspects of the living traditions of Odissi has been done and preserved for posterity.

The State Government have been funding this Centre, which has now become autonomous, for the last 3 years from the budget of its Culture Department. Considering the scope, objective and current level of activities, there is urgent need for augmenting the resources of the Odissi Research Centre.

The programme undertaken by the Research Centre cannot be completed within a reasonable time frame owing to budgetary constraints.

As such, I request the Government of India to provide an annual recurring assistance of Rs. 15 lakhs with effect from 1988-89 with a view to sustaining the research oriented activities of the Centre.

[*Translation*]

(v) **Demand for purchase of handloom woollen cloth for military uniforms**

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the

[Sh. Hafiz Mohd. Siddiq]
handloom weavers in India used to manufacture woollen parda extralock cloth for army jawans of the country. Under the new policy of the Textile Ministry, mill-owners have procured modern machines from Germany to be used in India. For the last 25-30 years this cloth continued to be manufactured in the handloom sector providing employment to lakhs of weavers. Now the Defence Ministry is procuring this cloth from the mills. The mills produce this cloth on modern machines. As a result lakhs of weavers have been rendered jobless.

I request the Central Government to issue a directive to the Ministry of Defence to the effect that it should resort to its original practice of procuring this cloth from the handloom sector. This will provide employment to the poor weavers.

[English]

(vi) Demand for a Low-power T. V. Transmission Centre at Pathanamthitta in Kerala during the current year

SHRI P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, setting up of a low power transmission centre at Pathanamthitta in Kerala has been a long standing demand.

Pathanamthitta is the only district in Kerala which does not have TV transmission facilities. This district has the highest percentage of literacy and has a very large number of schools, colleges and technical institutions. Economically too, it is an advanced district. The people who bought TV sets as far back as in 1980 are still waiting to get transmission facility. This has created a sense of frustration in them.

Now that the Planning Commission has approved the proposal, I would request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to take immediate steps to set up the transmis-

sion centre at Pathanamthitta during this year itself.

[Translation]

(vii) Demand for relief measures for saving villages which have been affected by last year's flood

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit the following under rule 377. "India is predominantly an agricultural country, where 80 per cent of the people depend on agriculture. They fall victim to floods and drought every year. As a result of which the condition of agriculturists has been deteriorating day by day. Consequently, the studies of their children have suffered a setback, who are the future builders of our country. Jahanabad parliamentary constituency in Bihar, has suffered a heavy loss due to floods and the best land of the hundreds of villages turned into rivers or deserts. As regards the grant of relief to the victims of floods, the State Government says that it has no funds for the purpose. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take advance measures to settle 10,000 people of this area elsewhere because it is but definite that if no safety measures are taken in respect of these villages within next two months, these villages will be swept away during the coming rainy season. Moreover, it is the duty of the Government to protect the people from natural calamities.

(viii) Demand for a Committee to inquire into the grievances of the staff of BHEL units in regard to promotion avenues, norms for transfers etc.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central):