

I urge upon the Minister of Railways that construction work of this project should be accelerated.

[*Translation*]

- (ii) Independent Department needed for the development and proper utilisation of herbs which are being used in life-saving drugs.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai): Herbs used to a bound in India and particularly the Himalayas, but in our country a number of life-saving herbs are being exported to other countries at a very low price and those countries are using them in manufacturing life-saving drugs and then they sell it in our country at high prices. With the felling of forests these herbs are becoming extinct day-by-day. Herbs used in the treatment of asthma, cough, blood pressure and other diseases have almost become non-existent. Our ancestors have been using these herbs for the welfare of man since the ancient time. The foreign rule gave a great setback to the growth of herbs. Even after the independence of our country, the Government have not paid any attention to the development of herbs which are wholesome and effective. On the other hand they are being exploited by the foreign companies and capitalists. In our country the scheme for setting up an ayurvedic pharmaceutical plant has been kept in abeyance. So the Government should create an independent department for the development and use of herbs. They should make every effort to check its exploitation so that the increasing side-effects of the allopathic medicines could be checked. At present substandard allopathic medicines are being used by the people because of their low prices but the genuine medicines are beyond the reach of the common man because of high prices. The Government should, therefore, pay attention in this respect so that the poor and the general public may derive its maximum benefit and also our country may be able to earn foreign exchange. There should be qualitative improvement in the medicine and the exploitation of precious herbs is curbed.

[*English*]

- (iii) Need to increase the frequency of air services to Leh.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): The Srinagar-Leh highway has closed for the

winter months with effect from the 15th of November 1985, and the entire Ladakh region will remain cut off from the rest of the country for over six months. The only link with the rest of the country is by air through the 5-day weekly Indian Airlines services. In the past, there had been heavy rush of passengers on both Leh-Chandigarh and Leh-Srinagar routes, and the passengers, particularly during winter months had to face great hardships for non-availability of seats on these flights. The people of Ladakh region had been requesting the Civil Aviation Department to increase the frequency of air service to Leh by adding one service each on the Chandigarh-Leh and Srinagar-Leh routes, but no action has so far been taken. I, therefore, request the Minister of Civil Aviation to increase the frequency of air services to Leh in view of the area remaining land locked during winter months.

[*Translation*]

- (iv) Supply of power to Rajasthan from Singrauli Super Power Thermal Plant till two units of Atomic Plant Kota start working.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): The State of Rajasthan is facing power crisis. Both the units of the atomic power units at Kota are lying closed. The farmers do not get power for more than four hours. About 2 thousand farmers of Barmer district have requested for power connections for irrigation but only 200 connections are being provided. Because of acute famine conditions, the farmers are giving priority to sowing of Rabi crop and fodder but non-availability of power connections is causing disappointment. They will not be able to produce Rabi crop and will consequently be badly affected by famine. Due to power cut, the small industries are becoming sick and entrepreneurs are facing economic crisis. Several rural drinking water supply schemes can be implemented if power is made available but due to irregular power supply, drinking water crisis has arisen in rural areas.

The Centre is, therefore, urged that both the units of the atomic power stations at Kota should be started on war footings. Till defects of these units are

[Shri Viridhi Chander Jain]

not rectified, power from the Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station should be supplied free to Rajasthan from the reserved quota so that the farmers are supplied power for 8 hours and power cut imposed on industries is removed and also proper arrangement for drinking water is made.

- (v) Need to supply adequate number of rakes for transportation of coal to Sindri Fertilizers and also for transporting urea and fly ash from there.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD (Giridih) : Coal supply to Sindri Fertilizer plant is being made by trucks but due to Mafia influence, the transportation rate has increased from Rs. 8.70 per tonne per Km to Rs. 18 per tonne per Km. The Department has realised the situation, but due to mafia influence no one is in a position to transport coal. The Government should immediately allot some more rakes for coal transportation otherwise it is doubtful if fertilisers from Sindri would be available to the farmers.

Similar position exists in regard to transportation of urea bags and fly ash. The transportation rate of urea has been increased from 33 paise per tonne per Km to 71 paise per tonne per Km and rate for fly ash transportation has also been increased three fold.

I urge the Central Government to take immediate concrete steps in this direction, otherwise instead of a popular Government in Bihar, it is the Mafia who would rule the State and it would be difficult to handle the situation later on.

- (vi) Implementation of Mahajan Commission Report regarding boundry dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

***DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) :** Several years ago, Mahajan Commission gave its report regarding the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra States. It is unfortunate that the Centre has not taken any action in this direction. These days, we find several agitations in these border area. Also, the recent statement of the

Prime Minister has created doubts in the minds of the people of Karnataka that the Mahajan Commission's recommendations would remain in the cold storage.

If this happens or if the report is not implemented then there may be an agitation in every nook and corner of Karnataka State.

12.22. hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

On account of delay in implementing Mahajan Commission's recommendations progress in the border areas has come to a grinding halt. These areas have become backward economically and socially. Industrial development, and other big projects appear to be dream now.

Therefore, the Centre should look into this matter immediately to save the people living in the border areas of Karnataka. I humbly request the Government to implement the recommendations of Mahajan Commission's report immediately and to protect the interests of the people living in the border areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

[*English*]

- (vii) Demand for an Electric Loco Shed at Kazipet in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : In Andhra Pradesh the Kazipet Railway Junction is located centrally. It is the gateway to South India. Every train going to South India has to pass through Kazipet. The electrification of the railway line between Kazipet, Vijaywara and Madras, Hyderabad, Balarshah etc. is going to be completed in the near future. In view of this, the Railway Department decided to have an electrical locoshed at Kazipet which comes under sub-central railway. The Department has acquired land for this purpose but so far the locoshed has not started functioning. It is essential to have repair facilities for the electrical engines at Kazipet itself. Hence I request the Railway Department to take steps to construct the locoshed immediately before completion of the above electrical railway lines.