

education, the standard of such education is declining because of falling standards in these universities.

It is, therefore, imperative that Allahabad and other old universities of the country be declared universities of national importance and granted the status of central universities in order to maintain the high standard of education in them.

(ii) **Steps needed to protect mountains and forest areas of Mirzapur District of Uttar Pradesh from Deforestation**

SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh has been known for its forests and hills, since times immemorial. Although this district is economically backward, it is considered to be the best for its natural environment. In the southern side of this district, the forests and hills have been denuded following the establishment of many big industries including hydel and thermal power projects. In the remaining part of the forests, trees were felled by the timber contractors who made crores of rupees as a result thereof. The hills are also being destroyed at a great speed by the quarry contractors in an illegal manner. The new plantations are also being felled by the contractors in collusion with the officer of the Forest Department and thus they are minting money. The trees being felled outnumber those being planted. Thus the natural beauty of Mirzapur is being marred. This is having a much adverse effect on the environment of the district. As a result, this district is often visited by natural calamities such as excess rains or drought.

I request the Central Government to take necessary steps to protect the forests and hills of Mirzapur for their excessive use. Then the situation will become all the more acute. As such, the problem of drinking water cannot be solved permanently there by providing tubewells and wells there. Therefore, the only permanent solution to the drinking water problem in this vast area lies in the ex-

peditious completion of Rajasthan Canal, viz, Indira Canal.

I, therefore, request the Central Government and the State Government to take steps to solve the problem of drinking water permanently for about two thousand villages of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts and the cities of Jodhpur, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Pokaran, Shergarh, Balotara and Falodi within the Seventh Five Year Plan period by implementing drinking water schemes through the Pokaran lift canal, Kolayat lift canal and Mohangarh to Barmer lift canal and Jilwa branch known as Sagarmal Gopa, of Rajasthan Canal.

(iii) **Providing Central Assistance to the tune of Rs. 100 crores to Himachal Pradesh during 1985 for construction of Pucca Roads and Bridges**

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh made rapid strides in development after independence and came at par with other States. With the construction of roads, the pace of development accelerated there. Previously, people used to experience a lot of difficulties in reaching the remote villages. The construction of roads there has proved to be a boon for the people in rural areas. But certain roads running into hundreds of kilometers are not pucca and get damaged during rains and snowfall. Small bridges and culverts generally are washed away due to erosion caused by rivers and thus the money spent by Government goes waste. The power of the people to purchase items of daily consumption is also eroded to a great extent. Therefore, the only remedy to these maladies is that the Government of India should provide an assistance of Rs 100 crores to the Himachal Pradesh Government during 1985-86 to enable the State Government to protect these roads and to convert them into all-weather roads. The State Government is not in a position to solve this problem as its resources are limited. I would request the Union Finance Minister to take immediate steps to provide the said amount.