

other parts of the State. Lack of development of the communication system, of irrigation potential and the lack of serious land utilisation programmes have been some of the reasons for this slow development. But the main reason of slow development has been that no steps have been taken to diversify the occupation of rural population from Agriculture to other allied occupations like Dairy projects and Fisheries etc.

Haroti region has the poorest quality of cattle in Rajasthan. This region has however great water potential for development of fisheries in a serious and a planned manner. There are vast areas with water logging problem along the Chambal canals in Kota and Bundi districts where no crop is grown at present. This water logged area can be profitably utilised for developing a number of fish farms in a planned and proper manner.

In view of this necessity, I request the Agriculture Minister to take steps for development of fisheries in a planned and serious manner in haroti region of Rajasthan.

- (ii) **Demand for authorising the Rajasthan State Electricity Board to get loan from REC or float debentures to raise funds for giving electric connections to farmers' tube wells etc.**

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: (Alwar): Lakhs of farmers of Rajasthan State are awaiting for electric connections for their wells and tubewells for the last five to seven years. All of them may not get electric connections even during the current year as the Rajasthan State Electricity Board is short of funds to provide electric polls, wires, insulators, meters and other necessary material and equipment. There is an immediate need of introduction of crash programme for energising wells and tubewells meant for irrigation. But it can be possible if sufficient funds are made available to Rajasthan State Electricity Board. It is suggested that Central Electricity Authority of India to Rural Electrification Corporation of India may raise funds by floating debentures and a sum of rupees one hun-

dred crores could be advanced to the Rajasthan State Electricity Board by way of loan so that it can provide electric connections to farmers of the State who are waiting for years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to authorise the Rajasthan State Electricity Board, to obtain loan from Rural Electrification Corporation or raise the loan by floating debentures at its own instance to the tune of rupees one hundred crores so that RSEB could provide electric connections for wells and tubewells to all the farmers who had applied till 31.3.1988.

[Translation]

- (iii) **Demand for starting work relating to extension of the Delhi-Rajhara railway line to Jagdalpur.**

SHRI MANKU RAM SODI (Bastar). Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last twenty years, residents of Bastar have been demanding extension of Delhi-Rajhara railway line to Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh. Final survey of this line has already been conducted and it is very necessary for the economic development of Bastar district from the point of view of trade, traffic and industry. For exploitation of natural resources also, this railway line requires special attention.

There are vast deposits of mineral wealth in Bastar, but in the absence of the aforementioned railway line, mineral wealth is not being utilized by any industry and the national wealth is being wasted. This railway line is very important from the point of view of trade in this district. All the markets to meet the needs of this district, are linked to this north border. Tribal people are not getting fair price for their costly teak wood, sub-forest produce and agricultural produce of this district.

So I urge the Central Government to take immediate steps to start the work relating to extension of the railway line from Delhi-Rajhara to Jagdalpur.