

lihood. The steel too can be produced at cheaper rate as Iron Ore would be available in plenty at the spot.

(ii) Need to ban killing of rhinos in the country

SHRI PROIBIN DEKA (Mangaldo): There has been a spate of rhino-killings since December 1992, despite efforts by conservationists and Government to save rhino, poaching has turned out to be lucrative with the high value attached to rhino-horns in traditional Chinese medicine. According to one estimate, Indian rhino-horns is in high demand in the international market as it is believed to have more power, strength and medicinal value than that of African horn. Poaching in Kaziranga National Park took an alarming proportion about two months ago and the park now has less than 1000 rhinos. Sources reveal that six rhinos were killed in one particular week and the park has been losing on an average at least one rhino every week. Poaching goes on in India unfettered due to certain loopholes in the policies and in their implementation. Lack of prompt action and delay in implementing preventive measures seem to have become a boom to poachers and as a result the number of rhinos in the park has dropped by about 300 during the last couple of months. Survival of rhinos is in great danger.

I therefore, urge the Union Government to save the species from becoming extinct by imposing a ban on killing.

(iii) Need to protect Government land belonging to India Government Text Book press at Bhubanswar, Orissa, from encroachment

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): 100 Acres of land belonging to India Government Text Book Press at Bhubaneswar, Orissa has been unlawfully and illegally encroached by private persons. Construction of Boundary walls and buildings are going on. The attention of the Central Government as well as the State Government have been drawn to this fact.

No steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check it so far.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take appropriate steps to save the land from encroachments.

(iv) Need to provide Central assistance to drought affected people of Mandla and Siwani districts, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Deputy Speakers, Sir, Mandla and Siwani districts in Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of drought for failure of rains for the last two years. People are migrating to the urban areas in search of employment but are returning back to the rural areas as a disillusioned lot. I would like to request the Central Government to provide funds to these areas so that relief work can be started immediately and employment is provided to the people in these affected districts. I would like to urge the centre to provide maximum financial assistance to the State Government as my district is economically very backward. There are no industries in my district and rainfed agriculture is the only means of livelihood. There is hue and cry everywhere because of the destruction of crops for failure of rains for the last two years.

Therefore, I urge the centre to take necessary steps on priority basis for starting relief works.

(v) Need to allocate funds from Central Road Fund to Uttar Pradesh Government

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the development and construction of the road network a Central Road Fund was set up by the Central Government out of the revenue receipts obtained through the levying of the excise duty on petrol. On the 13th May, 1988 a resolution was passed by the Eighth Lok Sabha for the inclusion of the duty levied on