

[Km. Frida Topno]

not being properly maintained. The highway runs through most backward parts of my district. Though the area is rich in mineral resources with largest deposit of iron ore, industrial houses are not attracted to set up industries due to the precarious condition of the highway area in spite of our liberalisation policy. Improvement of this national Highway is, therefore, a prerequisite to attract industrial houses to set up industries in this most undeveloped area.

(v) Need to Withdraw Permission granted to Foreign Companies for fishing in Indian Waters.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has granted permission to foreign multinational companies for fishing in the Indian sea water. These companies with the help of ultra modern machines and trawlers catch fish in large quantities. Not only this, these companies send their fishing boats to the sea water used by the Indian fishermen. Consequently, about 3 lakh fishermen have been rendered jobless because these companies catch as much fish in one day as the Indian fishermen can catch in 30 days.

The fishermen living on coastal areas such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have lodged their strong protest against this decision. Especially, the lives of fishermen of Gujarat have become deplorable as all fishermen of Gujarat depend solely on this for their livelihood.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to withdraw the permission granted to foreign companies for fishing in Indian waters with a view to safeguarding the interests of fishermen.

There is no need for allowing the multinational companies to enter into such a small field as this. These fishermen who fish with their small equipment should also be provided central assistance. A fishing port should be constructed at Ubargaon and Vasiborsi in Gujarat. If the Government does not withdraw the permission granted to foreign companies, lakhs of jobless fishermen will start an agitation against the Government.

(vi) Need for Early Renovation of Jokadiha Anicut Project on River Kharasrota in Orissa.

[English]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS

(JAJPUR): Jokadiha Anicut on the river Kharasrota which was constructed during the British era with a view to supply water to thousands of hectares of cultivating land of almost all the eight blocks like Rasulpur, Dharmasala, Korei, Jajpur, Sukinda, Dandagadi, Dasarathpur and Binjharpur in the newly formed district of Jajpur in Orissa. But, as work for the development of the project has not been taken up since long, it fails to serve any purpose now. When the Rengali Multipurpose Project was taken up, it was said that the renovation work of the Jokadiha Anicut alongwith the high level canal and extension of the same upto Danagadi, Sukinda and Korei blocks would also be taken up at the same time, but nothing has been done in this regard so far. The people of these areas almost depend upon agriculture and have no alternative source of income from other sources. It is worth mentioning that scarcity of water in times of need has always endangered the very economic existence of the millions of cultivators there. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister, Water Resources to do the needful in the completion of renovation and extension of the project.