

[Shrimati Basava Rajeshwari]

to avoidable cost overruns but may lead to losing the grip of project authorities. Hence, formal clearance should not await submission of DPR.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government that an immediate decision may be taken in this regard and all other formalities completed within the stipulated period of time.

- (v) **Need to devise new techniques to protect forest wealth from fire**

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the afforestation programme is being implemented all over the country to maintain ecological balance. Efforts are also being made to increase Forest Wealth. It is a good thing but alongwith this it is also necessary first to organise these programmes properly and pay proper attention on their maintenance and protection.

The Forest Wealth is in abundance in our country. The Forests are being cut and burnt but we do not have any scheme to protect them. There are very large and dense forest in Saurashtra in my constituency Junagarh where lions are found and domestic and foreign tourists come there to see them but there is not scheme to protect these forests. Whenever fire breaks out in this forest, it continues to burn and spread for days together but no measure is taken to protect the forests from fire. This has resulted in loss of forest Wealth. It has now been reduced to half and I feel if the latest measure and modern technique are not adopted to protect the forest it will be destroyed. So I appeal to the Government to find and adopt modern measures of modern technique not only to protect forest wealth of Junagarh but of the whole country.

- (vi) **Need to re-introduce a regular air service from Rajkot to Delhi**

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no direct air service, from Junagarh, Porebunder, Jamnagar, Amreli, Rajkot, Surendra Nagar Parliamentary Constituencies of Saurashtra region in Gujarat, to Delhi. Earlier there was a daily air service from Rajkot but it was discontinued later on.

If a daily air service is started from Rajkot to Delhi, all the above mentioned constituencies and districts will be benefit thereby because Rajkot is in the Centre of all these places and one can catch the flight to Delhi with half an hour from one's respective place. MPs from these constituencies will be able to look after their parliamentary constituency properly, if this facility is provided. Industries have spread in this area. It will benefit the businessmen and people working in industry not only to reach Delhi but also northern India.

You need not to spend money because run way and other facilities are available in Rajkot as air service between Delhi and Rajkot was operating earlier also. So, we all M.Ps from Saurashtra region, people of the area demand that Rajkot-Delhi regular air service should be introduced.

- (vii) **Need to dispense with Freight equalisation policy to ensure rapid industrial development of Bihar**

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): The Freight equalisation policy and fixed royalty on mines are important factors. These factors are responsible for low progress of industrial development in Bihar. It is a fact that upto 1983 investment in industries in Bihar was Rs. 6000 crore more than the developed states like West Bengal, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, etc. But Bihar has not been able to achieve its due place in the industrial map of the country. Due to the freight equalisation

the products of core large scale Industries in the state, has been used very less in setting up of subsidy industries. The other states which were already having infrastructure took more benefit of the iron and coal available in Bihar. Thus Bihar was deprived of the direct benefit of minerals available in the state and of Industrial investment. The factor has been central freight equalisation policy.

So through the House I demand from the Government to withdraw this policy immediately so that Bihar can make progress in industrial field.

- (viii) **Need for holding a nationwide debate on conservation and proper management of water resources in the country**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir water is an important natural resource, a fundamental necessity of mankind and a vital resource for planned developmental activities. The Demand for water is on the increase, but its availability in nature is limited. It is the utmost duty of every citizen to preserve water and to save it from pollution, and to use it properly and economically. The development and management of water available in the country may be made properly, efficiently and entirely, future needs of water for drinking, Irrigation, Electricity etc. can be met.

There is a need to hold a public debate on this issue in the country. An awareness needs to be created among the people in the country about growing demand for water, limited availability of water in nature and the importance of water in improving environment in the country. There is also a need to pay attention towards the implementation of some concrete suggestions emerging out of the nationwide debate on the issue in the country.

15.57 hrs.

**WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 be taken into consideration."

This Bill seeks to augment the resources of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards and to encourage economy in the use of water for abatement of pollution. With the passing of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rapid expansion of industries and towns, the responsibility and workload of the Pollution Control Boards has increased considerably. The funds available with these Boards have not kept pace with the increase in cost and with the overall commitments which involves increased financial liabilities.

The cess rates fixed in 1977 were low and have not been revised so far. The Central and State Pollution Control Boards have recommended that the rate of cess be doubled and also remove other lacunae in the Act for its better implementation. The existing rates of cess have been in operation for over 12 years and the proposed increase is lower than the increase in the price index during this period. On account of inflation, there is no increase in the burden in real terms.

I am also introducing the concept of economic incentives and dis-incentives in the proposed amendments. The Government has two specific objectives in mind, firstly, an approach to encourage adoption of best available practical and technical solutions for prevention of pollution at source.