

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.