

[Shrimati Girija Devi]

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and is surrounded by four rivers. The total distance from Chhapara to Varanasi is only 200 km but people will have to travel a distance of about 375 kilometres via Bhatani Devria for want of a bridge. Ballia and Ghazipur located on the other side of the river can be reached by two-three trains running on narrow gauge. In the circumstances small scale industries cannot be set up there and the backwardness of the area continues to increase further. Keeping these factors in view the Government prepared a plan to construct a bridge between Manjhi and Ballia in 1977, and the foundation stone was laid by the then Government. Gradually the construction work progressed, but the work has been stopped after raising pillars. A few days ago the construction material was also removed. Government is bearing a monthly establishment expenditure of about Rs. 3 lakhs for the project. The cost of construction has also escalated due to delay in completion of the work. The local people are unhappy that the bridge has not been constructed even after such a long period and that too the construction material has also been removed from the site.

Therefore, I would like the Government to complete the construction work of the Manjhi-Ballia bridge without any delay for the development of this area which has, so far remained extremely backward.

14.50 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

- (vii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Bakreswar and Kolaghat Thermal Power Projects**

[*English*]

**SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL**  
(*Joynagar*): *The Annual Report (1990-91) of the Department of Power of the Union*

Government presents a dismal picture about the performance of thermal power units, which is a matter of immediate concern - the thermal generation in 1990-91 being 14.91 billion units less than the target. Of particular importance is the delay in commissioning, a problem quite in line with the cost and time over-run. The uncertainty prevailing in 1990-91 may contribute to the delay in commissioning of the power plants in the coming year, particularly the fate of Bakreswar (in West Bengal), in which case indefinite delay may be caused due to the recent political and economic changes in the Soviet Union. The State Government of West Bengal was determined to implement the project by March, 1992, it having already invested Rs. 120 crores in it. I would, therefore, urge the Union Government that pending the finalisation of any financial agreement with the Soviet Union on the Bakreswar thermal power project, it should extend some concrete financial and technical assistance to enable the State Government to push through this project without any further delay. The State Government is already in the grip of acute financial crunch, which has forced it to suspend further work on its Kolaghat thermal power project. In this case too, the Central Government may consider extending some financial help to the State Government to enable it to go ahead with the project not only to prevent cost over-runs but also to provide much needed relief to the power-starved city of Calcutta, particularly its industries.

- (viii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for Sinking giant bore-wells to solve the drinking water problem particularly in North Arcot and Chengal Anna Districts**

\***SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM**  
(*Arkonam*): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, particularly in North Arcot and Chengal Anna Districts, due to scanty rain people are put to a lot of difficulties. The inhabitants on the banks of Palar river in Vellore, Arakkonam, Sholin-