

[Sh. Mahendra Baitha]

Government should set up a sugar mill at Dhanha at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to give Clearance to Second Phase of anti-sea erosion Project regarding Kerala coastline**

[English]

SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE (Alleppy): A proposal for Central assistance for the protection of the sea coast of Kerala has been sent to the Central Government. The coast line of the State which extends to 560 kilometres is highly vulnerable to sea erosion. This is a peculiar problem faced by the Kerala State on account of the geographical location of the State which is at the tip of the peninsula. The coastal area of the State has the highest density of population and homesteads are built up to the very limit of the coast line. Every year, hundreds of families are facing hardships due to the erosion during the monsoon. A project for the second phase of the anti-sea erosion work is pending before the Union Government. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to give clearance to the second phase of the anti-sea erosion project.

- (iv) **Need to fix a statutory minimum price of Rs. 120-150 per bag of Tapioca grown in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): In India only Tamil Nadu and Kerala are engaged in Tapioca cultivation and Tamil Nadu tops in its cultivation. It is grown in abundance in Dharmapuri and Salem districts. The acreage of cultivation in the State of Tamil Nadu as a whole is 25 lakh hectares. Tapioca tubers, though edible, are largely used for starch manufacturing. Starch pellets are exported and a sizeable amount of foreign exchange is thereby earned. But the Tapioca growers are not getting remunera-

tive prices. The growers are, however, forced to sell them at very low prices to intermediaries. Besides, the recent floods have also resulted in distress sale. I urge upon the Government to intervene and fix a statutory minimum price of Rs.120-150 per bag and save the growers of tapioca.

- (v) **Need to relax eligibility condition for retirement benefits in case of armed forces personnel disabled during service**

[Translation]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI (Garhwal): Armed forces personnel in thousands retire every year in the country due to disability or other reasons. These ex-servicemen are being deprived of pension, for not completing fifteen years of service. Many of them served for 10-14 years but had to retire without pension due to physical disability or an injury sustained during service. Thousands of applications of such retired army personnel are received by the Ministry of Defence but these applications are being turned down on the plea that the applicants did not complete 15 years in service.

I have also been receiving similar applications in thousands from my own constituency Garhwal. My submission to the Government is that the question of grant of pension to these retired ex-servicemen should be reviewed and an amendment should be made. After retirement, these ex-servicemen are not able even to join the civil service. Even Military Resettlement Centres fail to re-employ them.

Therefore, I would submit to the Government and the Defence Ministry to relax the length of service requirement for making them eligible for pension, or they should be given guarantee of re-employment in Government or other organisations after retire-