

6.00 P.M.

with their plans on consolidation and merger of public sector banks. It was reported that the SBI management will expedite the merger of the associate banks like SBT with SBI. It is astonishing that such thing again emanates at a time when the so-called Global Banks in the UK and the USA have tumbled as part of global banking, financial and economic crisis. Sir, 75 per cent of the bank deposits in India are household deposits. This must be utilised for the welfare of the masses for the development of agriculture, small-scale industries, etc. The merger would lead to closure of rural branches in the name of competitiveness. The proposal of merger of State Bank of Travancore with SBI will not be in the interest of the nation, national economy, and banking system. The proposed merger would obviously result in closure of the large number of branches of SBT and result in losing the jobs and job security of employees and officers. This also curtails the banking services for the people. So, I urge the Central Government to intervene to withdraw the decision of merger and ensure the identity of SBT.

Demand to provide employment under NREGA to the people affected by famine

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान) : महोदय, देश में और विशेषकर उत्तर-पश्चिम भाग में मानसून आने में लगभग दो सप्ताह की देरी हो गई है। राजस्थान में मानसून की पहली बरसात जुलाई के पहले सप्ताह में आई। कुछ जिलों में मासिक औसत के बराबर वर्षा हो गई, किन्तु गरमी के कारण वर्षा के उपरांत भी अभी बुआई शुरू नहीं हुई। राजस्थान जैसी स्थिति पंजाब, हरियाणा, सौराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश के पश्चिमी भाग और अन्यत्र भी दिखाई देती है। इससे न केवल भूमिहीन, लघु एवं सीमांत कृषक और कृषि मजदूर ही प्रभावित हुए हैं, अपितु वे काश्तकार भी प्रभावित हो गए हैं, जो उपरोक्त श्रेणियों में नहीं आते। इनको अपने निर्वाह के लिए तत्काल आजीविका की आवश्यकता है। राज्य सरकार आपदा प्रबंधन के अन्तर्गत इनके लिए व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकती और योजना कार्यों पर ऐसे सभी लोगों को रोजगार नहीं दिया जा सकता। इसका एकमात्र विकल्प इनको नरेगा के अंतर्गत कार्य चलाकर रोजगार दिलवाने का है। इसके लिए नरेगा के बी.पी.एल. होने के मानदण्ड में अस्थाई रूप से छूट देनी होगी, साथ ही जितने दिन ऐसी स्थिति रहे उस अवधि को नरेगा की 100 दिन की समय सीमा से बाहर रखना होगा।

महोदय, समस्या केवल राजस्थान या किसी जिले अथवा तहसील विशेष की नहीं है। देश के बहुत सारे हिस्से इससे प्रभावित हैं। अतः मैं मांग करता हूँ कि नरेगा के मानदण्डों में छूट देते हुए सूखा प्रभावित क्षेत्र के किसानों को नरेगा के अन्तर्गत रोजगार दिलवाने की तत्काल व्यवस्था की जाए और बी.पी.एल. के मानदण्डों और 100 दिन की अवधि में शिथिलन करते हुए समस्या का समाधान किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

**Need to review the regulations notified by CERC to fulfil the objective of
'Electricity for All' under the Bharat Nirman Programme**

SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN (Assam): Sir, the regulations 2009-14 of CERC contain several enabling provisions to hike tariff of Central Sector Utilities, which are not conducive towards the common electricity consumers. The regulations notified by the CERC need to be reviewed otherwise, the objective of "Electricity for all" under the Bharat Nirman Programme will be defeated. NEER is considered as most backward region of India with a per capita consumption of electricity of 111 KWh against national average of 411 KWh, and only 24 per cent village household accessed electricity in

the year 2005-06 according to Vision 2020, a document released by hon. Prime Minister in 2008. In contrast, the tariff regulations contain gross negligence, granting indulgence of prudence check of various Central Utilities like NTPC, NHPC, NEEPCO and Power Grid etc. and allowed huge financial largesse with profligacy on various heads of expenses in an arbitrary manner at very low level of operational benchmark and efficiency, giving unprecedented profit and expenses at the cost of common consumers. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission instead of controlling unreasonable expenses of the Central Utilities has justified without looking at consumer's interest. Transmission Tariff of PGCIL for North Eastern Region is already very high. CERC did not try to rationalize, instead allowed enhanced expenses by over 50 per cent, The Regulatory Commission did not make any effort to enforce any benchmark level of efficiency in the operations of the Central Utilities.

**Demand for providing Solar Lanterns in Remote
areas affected by 'Aila' in West Bengal**

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Sir, I draw special attention of the House towards the islands of Sundarbans, particularly, the remotest islands like Laheripur, Mollkhali, G-Plot, etc. which are totally isolated from the Indian mainland. Left Front Government with assistance from the Central Government took initiative and illuminated most of the islands with solar lights. But, due to the devastating cyclone 'Aila', a large number of solar systems have now become non-functional due to the inrush of saline water inside the houses of the rural people. Most of the people of the above islands have not taken shelter in the relief camps where there is no electricity. In this context, West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited, a Government organisation has developed special type of high efficient solar lanterns and solar torches. Such lamps are the only lighting source in many of the relief camps now. The cost of one such system is around Rs. 900 only. It will be great help for the people of Sundarbans if large number of such special solar lanterns and solar torches are distributed to the victims of 'Aila' on a war footing basis. Subsequently, the same solar lamps and torches could be given to the girl students of families living in the area to help them study. I appeal of the relevant Central Ministry to make available required funds to this purpose urgently.

**Demand to grant financial assistance to M/s MAS Holding Company
under scheme for Integrated Textile Project**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the SITP Scheme which has significantly complimented efforts of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing a strong fillip to textile and apparel sector in the State. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has entered into an MoU with M/s MAS Holdings to set up a textile park on 14th December, 2006, at Chintavaram village of Nellore district. The 750-acre park is expected to provide direct employment to 30,000 people, The investment envisaged is approximately US \$ 200 million and expected export revenue will be US \$