

underpasses and service roads along the National Highway. Sir, through you I request the Government to build underpasses along the National Highway at Jangaon Crossroads, Hitech Bustand, 60 Feet Road and Durajpally centers and stop fatalities caused by accidents.

Sir, an FM Radio Centre has been sanctioned for Suryapet, but the construction work of this Centre is going on at a slow pace."

HON'BLE CHAIRMAN: Shri Lingaiah, Your notice is for starting a new Passport Centre in Suryapet District. Henceforth, you should not discuss other topics.

SHRI LINGAIAH YADAV: Sir, there is a need for a Passport Centre in Suryapet District. Sir, through you I request the Government to sanction a Passport Centre in Suryapet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking for opening of a Passport Seva Kendra in Suryapet new District headquarters in Telangana. That is the crux of the problem. He spoke in Telugu.

Now, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas.

Pollution of river Churni by Bangladesh factories

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, the River Churni is a famous river of Bengal. It is a tributary of the River Mathabhanga, which, in turn, is a tributary of the River Padma flowing into Bangladesh. This river flows about 56 kilometres into India and it empties itself into the River Ganges.

Sir, it covers four administrative blocks mainly inhabited by SC population and hosts a very large fishing fraternity belonging to the SC community living in the villages adjacent to both the banks. The River, which has provided the chief source of livelihood to these people over the ages, is now under serious threat due to widespread pollution that is spreading due to irresponsible dumping of factory effluents into it on the Bangladeshi part of the border just before this River enters into India.

This has led to ravaging of aquatic life and ecosystem of the river causing serious environmental concerns. The fishermen community is acutely impoverished due to losing their livelihood. For a major part of the year, that is, about nine months of the year, this river's water remains unfit for human use, which otherwise could have been useful for washing, bathing, irrigation, transportation and such multifarious purposes.

[Shri Abir Rajan Biswas]

Furthermore, the foul odour of the ravished river makes life miserable in the adjoining villages. It assumes further fatal proportions by becoming the fertile breeding ground of mosquitoes, which, in turn, cause great health hazards by infecting the population with outbreak of diseases like malaria, dengue and chikungunya and claiming numerous lives.

Sir, it assumes more significance given the stark reality of acute water crisis in many parts of our country when there is serious contemplation of use of more surface water, as ground water is becoming a rare essential resource gradually, and its mining has various ill-effects, as we know, like, leading to arsenic contamination and others. Sir, while I was the Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly, I had raised this matter. But I could not cut much ice since it involves international interactions. So, I would request the hon. Ministers of the concerned Departments to take up the matter with the Bangladeshi authorities to provide relief to these people. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri A. K. Selvaraj. He will speak in Tamil.

Drip irrigation and crop insurance scheme

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu):* "Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in my mother tongue Tamil to raise an issue of farmers of our country. Agriculture is the main profession of our country. The Union Government and some State Governments are giving many subsidies to farmers to increase agricultural productivity. They are implementing various schemes to increase agricultural productivity. Drip irrigation is practiced for water management. Hundred per cent subsidy is given to small and marginal farmers whereas 75% subsidy is given to other farmers so as to encourage them for adopting drip irrigation. When subsidy is given, same pattern is followed throughout the country. Factors like nature of soil, temperature, monsoon etc. vary from region to region and from State to State. When a uniform procedure of granting subsidy throughout the country is followed, these factors are not taken into consideration. Weather conditions differ from State to State. ₹1 lakh subsidy is given for adopting drip irrigation for cultivating fruits, vegetables and other crops. When high density farming is practiced, the gap between saplings is less. Therefore, the number of dippers have to be increased which increases the cost. Moreover, water retaining capacity of red soil and sandy soil is less. When cultivation is done in such kinds of soil, it becomes necessary to increase the number of dippers. When drip irrigation is practiced in uneven areas, the land is to be divided into smaller

* English translation of Telugu portion.