

kilometer railway line from Vishrampur to the district headquarters at Ambikapur and provision for the same should be made in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

- (ii) **Need for setting up a Parliamentary Committee to review the working of scheme for conversion of dry latrines into low cost sanitation units**

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the Scavenger Rehabilitation Action plan, the Central Government has only provided the designs and draft of the plan to the State Government for converting dry latrines into Sulabh Shauchalay' in the residential houses, which is to be strictly followed. Under this Action Plan, financial assistance and grant is made available from the funds allocated by the Centre and the State Governments provide assistance only to those people who undertake conversion of dry latrines into Sulabh Shauchalayas through the sulabh international.

But the Sulabh International, which has the monopoly over this work in Bihar and other states, is undertaking this conversion job in such a way that the new lavatories too are dry and this bottom surface remains 'Kuchcha'. Moreover, the norms regarding quantum of water to be used and the distance to be kept between the lavatory and the handpump laid down by the Sulabh international themselves amounts to admission of the fact that such lavatories lead to pollution of groundwater and air and that these latrines are to be cleaned between every three to six years, which is bound to create problems for the people in the villages and cities. Further, a big chunk of the State Government's allocation for Scavenger rehabilitation scheme is diverted to re-construction of community latrines, as a result of which dry latrines in residential areas are not converted and the money is utilised for urban development.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to break the monopoly of one company

over this scheme and constitute an inquiry committee consisting of Lok Sabha Members, to go into the merits and demerits of the said scheme.

- (iii) **Need to run express trains between Haldibari - Sealdah and Coochbehar - Sealdah daily**

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that it was a long-standing demand of the people of North Bengal for introducing express trains, one from Haldibari to Sealdah and another from Coochbehar to Sealdah. The Government has decided to introduce both the trains. But I am sorry to state that it has been decided to run these trains tri-weekly. This will not solve the acute problems of travelling faced by the people of North Bengal. The only express train, the Darjeeling Mail, fails to accommodate all the passengers of the area of Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Siliguri which are very busy business centres and Tea areas from where people often have to come to Calcutta for various purposes. Therefore, I urge upon the Railway Minister to run the said train daily instead of tri-weekly.

- (iv) **Need to provide adequate financial assistance to state government of Sikkim to encourage bamboos plantation in the state.**

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Sir, Sikkim is perhaps the only State in the country having large varieties of bamboos. There are cultured and wild bamboos which can be grown in almost all variable altitude in Sikkim. Bamboos have multifarious uses and if grown in abundance and in a planned way, labour-intensive handicraft industry can be developed in the State. It can also provide raw-material for paper industry. Apart from this, there is growing demand of bamboo shoots not only in the country but from foreign countries