

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

[Smt. Dil Kumari Bhandari]

also. This can be helpful in earning valuable foreign exchange.

I request the Central Government to provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government of Sikkim to encourage bamboo plantation there.

- (v) **Need for conversion of Palamaner Ananthapur Kurnool Chittoor Naidupeta Tirupati and Palamaner Venkatagiri-Kota Roads as national highways**

SHRI M.G. REDDY CHITTOOR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring the following matters under Rule 377.

The length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh is 2352 kilometres only which falls short by 3188 kilometres to make up 5540 kilometres as per norms. Andhra Pradesh is one of the few States where no State Roads were upgraded as National Highways since inception. The State Government have proposed upgrading the following State Roads as National Highways in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

1. Palamaner to Ananthapur connecting N.H. 4 to N.H. 7;
2. Kurnool to Chittoor - 369 kilometres;
3. Naidupeta - Tirupati - Chittoor connecting N.H. 5 and N.H. 4 - 130 kilometres;
4. a) Palamaner - Venkatagiri Kota - Kuppam (in Andhra Pradesh) Vepanapalli - Krishnagiri (in Tamil Nadu) - 160 kilometres.
b) Palamaner - Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) - 100 kilometres.

As such I humbly request the Central Government for early conversion of above mentioned State Roads as National High-

ways for the proper development of the backward area.

- (vi) **Need to clear applications for grant of licences for setting up new sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (Sitapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this important issue under rule 377.

Although, India is the largest sugar producing country in the world, yet from the production point of view India hardly fulfills the domestic requirements. Uttar Pradesh is the largest sugar producing state of India and sugar industry is the biggest industry of the State. Approximately 30 lakh sugarcane growers and lakhs of labourers are directly associated with it, but only 33% of the total sugarcane production is crushed and remaining 67% sugarcane is used in 'Khandsari' units, jaggery, fodder and seeds etc. only. In this way two-third of the total production of sugarcane can't be crushed. At present the Union Government is helping in setting up the co-operative and public sector mills for crushing sugarcane but due to economic constrains the Government is unable to set-up the mills required for it. As private sector is being encouraged to set-up other industries under new-industrial policy, I think, similarly it should be encouraged to set up sugar mills also so that the sugarcane produced by the farmers can be crushed and they can get proper price of their produce. From this point of view only the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent the proposals to the Union Government with its recommendations for setting up sugar mills in private sector which are still lying pending for approval.

Therefore, I submit to the Union Minister of agriculture to immediately issue licences considering all the applications for setting up the with submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, so that crushing