

would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious problem. A railway line connects the Mansi Junction of Bihar to the Saharasa junction and this line dates back to the time of the Britishers. Many trains run on this line. The train which should run at a speed of 40 kilometre per hour runs at a speed of merely 10–15 kilometres in this area. Every year the Railway Division undertakes repair operations. This being a border area I would like the Railway Ministry to include the proposal for changing the metre gauge line between Mansi Junction and Saharasa Junction into broad gauge in this year's Railway Budget so that the inconvenience to crores of people could be removed.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the news item of *Hindustan Times* today, which says: 'Lanka fears LTTE-Naval Instruction! The fears of Sri Lankan Naval Vice Admiral Shri Ciancy Fernando are unfounded and his statement is misleading our Indian newsmen. The Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of 1974 is quite clear that Indian fishermen have every right to catch fish near Katchatheevu and dry their nets and catches at Katchatheevu. But our fishermen are often attacked and harassed when they fish near Katchatheevu. Shri Ciancy Fernando is giving bogus news saying that the Sri Lankan Navy refrained from taking action against genuine Indian fishermen despite the fact that they violate the international law every time when they fish in Sri Lankan territorial waters. But, this is not the fact. He further says that about 400 fishing trawlers are found in Palk Strait on April 7. There cannot be 400 trawlers putting Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu together. So, this is a bogus news given by the Vice-Admiral of Sri Lanka against our fishermen.

His further statement is that India has

been doing a yeoman's service in containing the LTTE and according to Indian Intelligence LTTE traffic has virtually ended. So, it is quite clear that the Vice-Admiral's fear is unfounded.

So, the misleading news about our fishermen should be rectified by the Sri Lankan Government.

I want our Government to clarify the truth to the Sri Lankan Government and to protect the interests of our fishermen who are being often harassed by Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Army.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise this important matter during Zero Hour.

At present, in our country lot of educated people have been suffering with unemployment. In this situation, it is not possible for the Government to provide employment for all these people. Hence only the small-scale industries can provide better employment to these people. Also there is good scope to earn foreign exchange through these smallscale industries. This sector also meets many needs of the people.

Hence I request you to bring out a Central Government Order to the 1894 Land Acquisition Act so as to enable the employed to acquire land locally in either village areas or town areas and start their own small-scale industries, cottage and village industries through which they can provide employment for themselves and they can provide employment for others also and thus improve the backward areas.

Through you, I request the Central Government to take necessary immediate action in the aforesaid case.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum):

Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government and of the House to an important public health problem.

This issue is brought to my notice by an article written on 1st April by Indian Express. I convey my thanks to the press.

Over 25,000 children and adults have been affected by the excessively high level of fluoride content in drinking water in the fluorosis villages of Amreli district in Gujarat, and in many other parts of our country.

In 1986 under the National Drinking Water Mission, a sub-Mission was formed to tackle the problem which affected roughly 25 million people in 8,700 villages. Thirteen States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh etc., are the affected States. The objective of the sub-Mission was to provide safe and potable drinking water to all fluorosis endemic villages by 1990.

A pilot project was set up for all the three worst affected States of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat (in the 37 villages of Amreli), which took several years to complete.

A project to construct pipeline from Kalubhar dam in Bhabnagar district to bring potable water to the affected villages dragged on for as many as eight years after it was first proposed in 1984.

Medical and health experts after in-depth study opined that too much of fluoride results in hardening of blood vessels and there is every possibility that the foetus can be affected and miscarriages and still births and deformed babies are there frequently.

Many of the infants, adults and even older people now cannot see the sky. They are worst affected due to high content of

fluoride in the drinking water. This is a major public health problem and I think that the Government has been rendering no service in this zone. They are committing criminal offences in not providing them safe potable drinking water.

So, I ask the Government to come forward to expedite the Project to provide potable and safe drinking water to avert a major public health hazard in different villages of our country.

12.55 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Annual Report and Review on the working of the tribal cooperative marketing Development Federation of India Ltd Delhi for 1988-89 etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1774/92]
- (b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi