

posal to Government of India in 1989, containing a list of important bridges and roads including 'Link Highway' connecting NH-47 and NH-17 via Guruvayoor, to be included under the CRF during the Eighth Plan. This link highway will act as a by-pass to Trichur town reducing the traffic congestion at Trichur town and will cater to the development of Guruvayoor, the most important pilgrim town of Kerala State. The present allocation of CRF to Kerala is quite insufficient to cover the works proposed by Kerala Government including this Link Highway. However, no sanction has been received during last year for any of the works proposed by Kerala Government. The Central Government are yet to reallocate resources due to State Government on Central Road Fund based on the revised resolution approved by Government of India in May, 1988. Substantial additional allocation to the tune of about Rs 33 crores is likely to be available to Kerala Government. I urge upon the Minister of Surface Transport to take immediate steps to clear the pending proposals and accord sanction to the Link Highway via Guruvayoor.

- (iii) **Need to set up an electronic telephone exchange in Ajmer, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer)
Sir, Ajmer has been a model city from the historical, educational, cultural and the communal harmony point of view. Ajmer is the heart of Rajasthan and is internationally known for Ajmer Sharif and Pushkar Raj, pilgrim centres visited frequently by tourists and pilgrims alike. However, in Ajmer even now the obsolete 'Crossbar' telephone system is in vogue. In a city of more than five lakh people, the modern and efficient telephone system is highly desirable. Though thousands of people are in the waiting list for telephone connections, only a few connections are released every year as the capacity

of the obsolete 'Crossbar' system is quite limited. There is a lot of resentment among telephone subscribers because the telephones generally remain out of order and the earth is repeatedly dug. Many newspapers are also published from Ajmer.

Therefore the Central Government is requested to replace the existing absolute telephone exchange technology with the electronic telephone exchange facility, so as to make the system in Ajmer effective and efficient.

13.00 hrs.

- (iv) **Need for early completion of Kapadwanj Madasa broad gauge railway line**

[English]

DR. K. D. JESWANI (Khedra) The Kapadwanj Madasa (Gujarat) Broad gauge railway track was first sanctioned by the Central Government in 1978-79 at the approximate cost of Rs 22 crores. It was sanctioned on the basis of a long term demand by the people of that area. Since then, no progress has been made in this regard. Even this year's Railway Budget does not contain any provision for this railway track. The conversion of Nadiad Kapadwanj narrow gauge to broad gauge is on the stage of completion.

It is strange that even after 45 years of independence, the people of this area have not seen or enjoyed a single kilometre of the railway track in their area. Even otherwise due to lack of other natural and geographical resources this area is totally under-developed.

Introduction of the railway is the only hope for some future development.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government

[Dr K D Jeswani]

to give a serious thought to provide railway facilities in this area

- (v) **Need to Provide funds to State Government of Karnataka from the Central Road Fund for the repairs of State Highways**

SHRI G DEVARAYA NAIK (Kanara) Sharavathi bridge near Honnavar North Canara District, Karnataka State on National Highway 17 collapsed sometime back and most of the heavy traffic of buses, lorries, cars and other vehicles going from Kerala coastal Karnataka towards Bombay and Gujarat were plying via this bridge. Due to collapse of this bridge, the movement of all these vehicles had to be diverted via other local State Highways, namely Sagar Hubli via Sirsi, Siddapur Hubli via Yellapur, Haliyal and Sagar Hubli via Sorab

With the increase of traffic, the condition of these roads has deteriorated at several places. It is, therefore, requested that the Ministry of Surface Transport may immediately allot Rs 10 crores for the immediate repairs of these State Highways from the Central Road Fund. It will enable the State Highways to withstand the heavy increase of traffic which would have otherwise moved via NH 17

- (vi) **Need to arrange medicines and take other steps to control gastro-enteritis in Sarguja tribal district of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI KHELSAI SINGH (Sarguja) Sir, in Suplaga and Bisarpani villages of Block Mainpar in district Sarguja in Madhya Pradesh

gastro-enteritis has spread. Between 22-2-92 and 18-3-92, in villages Suplaga and Bisarpani 11 and 3 persons respectively lost their lives because of this disease. On 20-3-92 approximately 36 persons were suffering from dysentery.

It is difficult to control disease in district Sarguja because there is no C.M.O. and against four posts of D.H.O., only one D.H.O. is working. There is shortage of medicines also. Therefore, the Central Government is requested to make available medicines in adequate quantity for controlling gastro-enteritis and may also advise the Government of Madhya Pradesh to immediately fill up the vacant posts in the Department of Health in district Sarguja.

- (vii) **Need for Setting up of a jute mill in Barpeta district, West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) Barpeta is a major jute growing district. Barpeta district and its adjoining districts are famous for jute cultivation in the entire N.E. region. The jute production in Barpeta district alone is nearly one lakh tonnes per annum. The jute grown there is of superior quality. There is a strong demand among the people for setting up a jute manufacturing unit in the district of Barpeta. Few years back attempts were made in this direction and the foundation stone was also laid at Guagacha, Barpeta district. But the jute mill has not been set up so far and proposed land for the unit is lying vacant.

The demand for setting up of a jute mill is still strong in the Barpeta district. The Barpeta district being the major jute growing area even today, I urge upon the Central Government to take measures to set up a jute mill in the district so that jute grown is utilised and employment potential be increased.