

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the last Railway Budget, the hon. Railway Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has allocated Rs. 130 crore for the conversion of Nagore-Trichirapalli line into broad gauge. The Railway Ministry has released only Rs. 1 crore for this, the machinery for work was stored at different railway stations and the work was also started. But when there was a delay in completing it, I contacted the General Manager and other higher officials of Southern Railway. They told me about the indifferent attitude of the Ministry and about the meagre fund that was released.

In the meantime, the machinery which was stored at different railway stations was loaded in trucks and transported them to Karnataka. The local people who come to know about this staged a demonstration and stopped the loading operations. The local people were agitated over the stoppage of work and are prepared to resort to all types of agitation. The conversion plan was mooted to facilitate the tourists visiting Nagore Darga which is called the Ajmer of South India and the Valankanni Cathedral.

I would also like to mention here that the Railways have been neglecting Tamilnadu and especially my Constituency which is the southern-most part of India. I am elected from a reserved seat where most of the people are SC/STs.

The conversion plan was cleared by the Railway Ministry and the fund was also allocated. But the work is not progressing; it has stopped. So, I would like to know about the present situation. I also request you to kindly take necessary action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. Five persons are killed almost every day in my Parliamentary Constituency. On 22nd/23rd of this month SHO of police station Kishanpur arrested a youth named Garibdas. Who was killed by the SHO publically later on this murder was shown as 'killed in encounter'. In village Ithala under the Jafarpur police station, police removed the statue of Babasaheb and threw it away. Dalits have been murdered in village Budhavan under the police station of Thaga. In the same way dalits have been murdered in Danva village also I would like to say that reality of police of Kishanpur has been exposed. Atrocities are being committed on the Dalits there. I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards it because Uttar Pradesh is under President's Rule. Chaos is prevailing there. Injustice and atrocities are being committed against dalits. Poor are not getting justice. They are killed in front of courts. The police present at the spot of incident does not nab the criminals. I request the Government that position of law and order in Fatehpur should be improved and S.P. and D.S.P.

should be transferred from there. Inquiry should be conducted into these murders and justice should be done to the distressed.

SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH (Sidhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. You have given me time for the first time I would like to know the procedure of raising my point during the Zero Hour. I have been trying for it since 9 A.M.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to give notice for it. A list is prepared and then Members are called to speak on selective basis. Do you want to say anything more.

SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH : I would like to know the actual procedure because I was told that one will be called to speak only if one has given his notice in the morning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will tell you the procedures I follow. First, I see which subject is relatively more important and then I go through the names of Members who have given notices. Notices are selected on the basis of importance of the subject. All the Members are not called. Now you can have your say.

SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH : Alright, Sir, the work on Mahan Irrigation Project had been taken in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh which was sponsored by World Bank and Madhya Pradesh Administration. Around 50 percent work on this project has been completed with fifty percent of the total cost of the project. Now all of a sudden work on this project has been stopped. Besides raising the standard of living of people of Sidhi area, this project would have made an important contribution in national development.

While drawing the attention of the Government towards it, I would like to make a submission that efforts should be initiated for mobilising required fund and resources for taking the remaining work of Mahan Irrigation Project.

SHRI JAGAT VEER SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have raised this issue in this House time and again but it seems that this Government do not care for implementing the assurances given and schemes launched by it. The workers of N.T.C. mills have not been paid salaries for the last three months. I discussed this issue with hon. Minister of Textiles three times and he had given assurance for payment of salaries in next two-three days but later on I came to know that funds allocated in the budget for this purpose have been spent. Now there is no money for it and decision on this issue would be taken in the Cabinet meeting. This issue had been raised twice in Cabinet meeting but could not be discussed. Salary is the only source of income for the workers engaged in these mills. They have been compelled to organise dharna, demonstration and Kanpur *bundh* on this issue. But it seems that Government is not worried about fulfilling of the assurances given by it in this regard. It was proposed that NTC Mills throughout the country would be made functional after modernisation. Rs. 2005 crore were earmarked for the purpose but nothing has been done so far.