

of increasing the number of existing platforms. Some other arrangements can be made in this regard. The leader of every party came to me for two minute stoppage of every party came to me for two minute stoppage of every train at Thane. I thought there would be no difficulty in doing so since the big leaders want it. I wrote to Railway Board. Railway Board replied that it was ready to obey my orders but I should go for a while and see their problems. I called most of the leaders. They started demonstrating the position on the computer. Computer showed running of the train upto Nagpur. The train came and slowed down and when this train picked up speed again, the two suburban trains could not be accommodated on the route. Then the officials asked me whether we want to stop the train for two minutes and discontinue these two trains. Then, all the leaders stated that this decision would create a greatness. It affects five thousand passengers. Therefore, do not change the schedule of this train. Sometimes it so happens that we want to take political decision and because of technological hurdles we are not able to take these decisions.

There was the case of Kurula. All friends said that Dadar would be better than Kurula and we also want that the train should be halted at Dadar. For this, we told the General Manager that we are prepared to provide extra fund. If there is need of making expansion of the Platform and if that can be done, we are prepared to do that also. I think that you people and the Chief Minister have talked to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for more times than to any other Minister of Railways in the past. Probably, no one pressurises the officers more than us. You cannot blame our intention. Our Chief Minister had came five days ago. We said that you tell us that we would send it to our General Manger. We would give it to all operating incharges. There, you can sort out this issue. If it is possible, we would be the happiest. There is this demand that Dadar Railway Station should be named as 'Chitbhumii'. We have written to Home Ministry also in this regard. That ministry is not doing it. Then how we can do it. I want to say that we are prepared for it but we are being told that you can remove the train coming from Punjab. Keep it in place of that. We did say that a prestigious train is coming there. Today, if we cannot give an extra train we also cannot withdraw existing train. You can hold a meeting and if any train is to be removed, you can do that and add it. Discontinue the train of Bihar, the train of U.P. and add that. We are prepared for the extra arrangement to be made for this purpose, but if our operating Incharge says that it is not possible and if you do it you would have to do it by withdrawing some train, then, it is not possible. We would have to make expansion of the Platform only then we can do something. If we are threatened that we would not be allowed to enter into the Railway Station, I don't know

as to how this country would function, how this House would function...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying anything on what he said and what he did not said...*(Interruptions)* I have put the reality, facts in this regard. I want to assure the hon'ble Members not only in case of Dadar but the whole country, when I go from here, you see what happen to us. I never close down my six number office. Whenever any one comes to me, I talk to the officer and ask him to sort out his problem. What more can we do? I can not do anything it inspite of it I am threatened.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I have requested you...*(Interruptions)* I have given you a proposal...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a proposal to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that all of us should go to Dadar and Kurla, have a survey and assess the situation there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would go to Kurula and Dadar on 8th. Whatever we can do, we would do but I want to tell you one thing that no one can force me to yield by threatening. You note it.

13.50 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to set up an L.P.G. outlet in Mohanlal Ganj, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA (Mohanlal Ganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not even a single LPG outlet in Mohanlal Ganj, Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Whereas there are more than one L.P.G. Outlet at many places in the remote areas of the country. People are facing lot of difficulties in my constituency due to the shortage of fuel.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take immediate steps to set up an L.P.G. outlet in Mohanlal Ganj constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

- (ii) **Need to overcome the problem of shortage of Foodgrains in the drought affected Districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : I represent the backward and underdeveloped districts, Barmer and Jaisalmer, of Western Rajasthan.

The Government may be aware that a major portion of Western Rajasthan, that is, about 70 per cent of the districts, was under the grip of drought in the year 1996-97 as a result of which the people of this area were badly affected.

There is no water and fodder for the cattle. There is no employment for the people of this area as a result they are migrating to Punjab and Gujarat. The main source of income for the people of this area is through cattle breeding. But due to shortage of cattle feed, a large number of cattle is dying. There is acute shortage of cereals at the Fair Price Shops of the Public Distribution System.

Sir, I request the Central Government to take immediate action to solve this acute shortage of foodgrains in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan.

- (iii) **Need to declare Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi-Sursand-Bhithamod road as a National Highway in Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the total length of National Highways in Bihar, which is the most backward state in the country, is 2118 kms. Since 1974 no approval has been accorded by the Government of India for the construction of any new National Highway in the state whereas during this period approximately one thousand kilometers have been added in the National Highway Network in the whole country. National Development Council had recommended to declare Patna-Bhithamod (bordering Nepal) road as National Highway but the Government of India has not taken any decision in this regard. After the devastating floods of 1987 the Government of India had given assurance to provide assistance for its reconstruction but it has also not been fulfilled. The Planning Commission has included this road in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to declare Patna-Hazipur-Muzzafarpur-Sitamarhi-Sursand-Bhithamod road as a National Highway in the year 1997-98 and the work on it may be started.

- (iv) **Need for early execution of gauge conversion work at New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Alipurduar Junction**

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the gauge conversion work for New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Alipurduar junction line has not yet started. It is a long standing demand of the people of the area. The economy of the Jalpaiguri fully depends on this railway

line. The scheme has already been included in the 1997-98 Railway Budget but no step has yet been taken for its implementation.

I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and take necessary steps for execution of the scheme at an early date.

- (v) **Need to reintroduce Public Health Care Scheme in the Country**

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 'Jan Sawasthya Rakshaks' were appointed at Village level in 1977, for the development of Ayurvedic system of medicines and also for public welfare. Their services proved very useful for the primary medical care of the people. But for the last few years neither medicines are being provided to these Rakshaks nor their services are being taken. As such, these Rakshaks are facing a lot of difficulties in pulling on the livelihood and not in a position to foster their families, consequently they launched an agitation at State level in order to find out a solution to this problem as a result of which there is large scale resentment among the people.

Therefore, I urge that the genuine demands of these Rakshaks should be considered seriously and solution to this problem be found out to safeguard the interests of these Rakshaks as well as the people.

- (vi) **Need to provide more facilities at Dharagaon Railway Station, Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Parliamentary constituency Erandol (Maharashtra) has Dharagaon Railway Station. The population of this area is about 50 thousands. 25 villages are located nearby it. Thousands of people of this area travel from this station daily as a result of which rail department earns the income of thousands of rupees per day but there are inadequate facilities at this station, the people of this area have launched agitation for these facilities. The officers of railway have given assurance to provide these facilities. This railway station has the following problems :

1. At least 20 seats be reserved in passenger trains from this station.
2. Stoppage should be provided to the express trains passing through this station.
3. The level of the existing platform should be raised and it should be further extended.
4. Proper and bigger shed should be constructed for the passengers with increased capacity.