

practically impossible for passengers travelling by road to reach their destinations in time.

I, therefore, earnestly request the hon. Minister of Railways to take urgent steps to remove these bottlenecks by constructing sufficient number of overbridges from Calicut to Manjeswaram without any delay.

(iv) Need to provide more railway facilities to Siliguri and New Jalpaiguri

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : I like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that North Bengal has been neglected in the field of Railway communication since long. The people of the area have been demanding the following since long but practically getting no result, leading to a serious agitation in the area:-

1. Gauge conversion of Siliguri Junction to Alipurduar Junction and Siliguri to New Jalpaiguri. Siliguri being an important place of this region, it should be connected with broad gauge without delay.
2. Running of Guwahati Rajdhani Express daily.
3. Introduction of a Shatabdi Express from Calcutta to New Jalpaiguri.
4. Introduction of a superfast train from Coochbehar to Calcutta.
5. Bifurcation of the Teesta-Tersha Express and running it separately one from Haldibari and another from New Jalpaiguri.
6. Introduction of express trains from New Jalpaiguri to all the important places of the country.
7. Provision of more train services between New Jalpaiguri and Calcutta and construction of double line from New Jalpaiguri to Guwahati.

I do urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so that the above said legitimate and long standing demands may be fulfilled at an early date.

(v) Need to provide job to a Member of each family whose land was acquired by IFFCO in Bareilly, U.P.

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the time of acquiring land for the IFFCO factory at Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh, it was assured that besides the compensation of land, one person from each of the affected family would be provided job according to his qualifications. This factory has been working here since long but so far no job has been provided to any member of the affected families whereas

thousands of appointments have been made in this factory. The farmers whose land was acquired, are facing great difficulties for earning their livelihood and their families are on the verge of starvation. Some persons of the affected families have been appointed on daily wages after repeated requests. They remain jobless for months together. Factory Administration has not regularised their services so far. They have launched several agitations in this regard. This area falls in my constituency. Therefore, through you I urge upon the Government that at least one member of the affected families, whose land have been acquired, should be provided employment and the daily wage workers should also be regularised at the earliest so that injustice committed against these poor farmers may be compensated.

(vi) Need to Convert the existing Low Power T.V. Transmitter into High Power Transmitter at Nagarkurnool in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : In the Nagarkurnool Taluka of Mahbubnagar District, Andhra Pradesh, a Low Power Transmitter has been functioning. As a result of which, reception of television programmes is not clear throughout Nagarkurnool Taluka. Moreover, parts of Nagarkurnool Lok Sabha constituency is a naxalite-infested area. If proper transmission arrangements are made, the people can be enlightened about the developmental programmes of the Government through audiovisual media. But, now the reception of television programmes remains blurred in the rural areas and people are unable to view the programmes transmitted by the Doordarshan. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to convert the existing Low Power TV Transmitter at Nagarkurnool into a High Power Transmitter at an LPT may be installed at Kolapur, Achampet and Amangal of Kalwakurthy Assembly segments of Nagarkurnool Parliamentary constituency. Action may also be taken for early completion of the LPT projects at Jadcherla and Achampet Assembly segments of Nagarkurnool Parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh. The height of the most of the proposed HPT and LPT should be increased so that the people in the rural are are also able to watch the Doordarshan programmes clearly.

15.00 hrs.

(vii) Need to Protect the Western Ghat Area proposed to be Leased out for exploration of Minerals

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, there are about 60 lakh hectares area in the Western Ghat area comprising Sagar, Saroba and Shimoga Taluks in

Karnataka State. Twenty-five per cent of this area is under forest cover and the proposal of the Government to lease out the land to multinational and Indian companies for exploration is likely to transform not only the ecological but also the human face of the inhabitants who are settled there for generations.

The Ministry of Environment constituted an expert Committee which emphatically ruled out any form of Mining activity in the Western Ghat area in Karnataka State. This view has also been corroborated by Canara Forest Department. It is also learnt that there are around 260 applications received by the State Government of Karnataka of prospecting/mining in the Western Ghat area and these include a few multinationals also. The minerals to be explored are gold, platinum, copper, maganese, etc. Public Sector undertakings like Bharat Gold Mines and Harti Gold Mines Co. are also trying to get involved in these projects.

People of the area have come out in a big way to protest against the Government move, through meetings which were held and largely attended at Jambani and Hala Ikkeri of Sagar Taluk of Shimoga District.

I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps in the matter and ensure that the Western Ghats are not disturbed at all on this account.

15.02 hrs.

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, a large number of Members have participated in the Debate and have given their valuable suggestions and thrown some light on this very important Bill.

15.03 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu *in the chair*)

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University recommended twenty years ago by the Gujral Committee. Thereafter, a Task Force was established in 1992 and a number of recommendations were made by that Task Force. An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Qureshi was constituted in 1992 and it submitted its Report in 1993. A Drafting Committee was thereafter constituted and the Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 25.8.1993. The Standing Committee also went through the Bill and recommended it without any amendment. But, however, it made certain suggestions to be implemented after the establishment of the University.

Let me make it categorically clear that this University should have been established a long time ago. There are a large number of Urdu speaking people in this country. But the position is that in no State are they in a majority. There are people who speak Urdu throughout the country.

Sir, I may mention here - and a number of speakers have also said about it - that Urdu is a language of India origin. So also is Hindi. In fact, Amir Khusro the great scholar and poet contributed largely for the origin of Urdu language. I must also say that it is a fine blend of local and foreign languages like Arabic, Turkish, Persian etc. It is a very rich language. I need not go into it.

In some parts of the country, particularly in the South, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and other places there are Urdu medium schools and high Schools. But there is not Urdu medium University where the boys can go. The need for such a University was felt. Therefore, this is being established in Hyderabad where there was an Urdu medium University - Osmania University - in which all faculties, including medicine, Engineering and Law were taught in Urdu till 1950. There is already some infrastructure available in Hyderabad. There are more high schools and Urdu schools in the South. Therefore, it was thought that this should be established in Hyderabad.

It is unfortunate but it is a fact that though Urdu-speaking people are more in the North, U.P., Bihar and other places, there are not many Urdu Medium schools and high schools. The *Madrasas* are there. This is a language of the Hindus, the Muslims and others. There is an apprehension in the minds of some of the people that Urdu is a language belonging to the minority community. I can say that it is a linguistic minority. But the language does not belong to any community. Normally no language belongs to any community. A language has its own origin. It has its own purpose to transmit knowledge and to convey thoughts. It is a means. As such, this Urdu language too, according to me - has got a historic origin, historic role and historic aspect. It is a blend of two cultures. Therefore, it is very secular in nature. It is a secular language. It blends the Hindu, the Muslim and other Persian cultures.

The naming of this University after Maulana Azad was commented. Somebody went to the extent of asking as to why we were naming the Urdu University after Maulana Azad and the Hindi University after Mahatma Gandhi. I am sorry to say that there are valid reasons for it.

Do not associate Hindus with the Hindi University. I have never taken the Mahatma as a Hindu. I do not take Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as a Muslim. It will be doing greatest injustice to such great personalities if we interpret or understand that way... (Interruptions)

Sir, I am telling that *Anter-Rashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya* was being named after Mahatma Gandhi not because he was a Hindu. You might