

duration, generally after 4.30 p.m. So the viewers depending on such low power transmission centres are disappointed due to the non-transmission of full time programme. It is seen that adequate staff strength is not provided for the transmission of full time programme. This deficiency in staff strength and consequent reduction in the time of transmission and programmes is causing concern and disappointment among the viewers. The L.P.T. at Martandam, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu is one of such stations which has no full time transmission programmes due to low staff strength and inadequate arrangements. So I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide PTs with adequate staff strength and other arrangements so as to enable the viewers to get the opportunity of full time programme.

(vi) Need to restore the railway line between Kotipalli and Kakinada in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA: A railway line between Kotipalli and Kakinada in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh existed during World War time. During the war period, some lines like one being mentioned have been removed whereas many or almost all those rail lines were restored after Independence. This line which is about 50 kms. in length has not been restored till date. During the 10th Lok Sabha in one of his Budgets, the then Hon'ble Railway Minister was kind enough to include this line in his Budget proposals. I understand that a survey has been conducted. This line, when restored, will benefit the people of agriculturally rich Konaseema area.

At present due to increased operations of ONGC in this area, there is a lot of pressure on road transport. Further, Kakinada is one of the important educational centres with Medical, Engineering and other colleges, besides being a port and district headquarters. A large number of students, farmers, businessmen, employee, commute from Konaseema area to Kakinada daily. They depend only on road transport which is unable to bear the pressure. The businessmen/agriculturists of Konaseema can conveniently transport their products to Kakinada Port and in the process the Railways too can earn sufficient revenue.

I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to see that his predecessor's promise to restore this line is fulfilled.

[Translation]

(vii) Need for early completion of by-pass in Lalitpur, U.P.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, The Construction work of a by-pass road in Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh is going on. It was started 10 years ago. Foundation stone was laid by a Union Minister. For the last 5 years construction work is held up. Construction of bridges on the river and stream is yet to be completed.

Sir, Jhansi, Sagar and Jabalpur road passes through Lalitpur city which comes traffic jams for three to four hours

during the day time and 10-12 serious accidents take place there every year. Therefore it is quite necessary to build the road and bridges on the river and stream to reduce the congestion in the city.

I, therefore, urge the hon'ble Minister to issue urgent instructions for the completion of remaining work expeditiously

(viii) Need for early construction of a by-pass on National Highway No. 3 between Indore and Dewas, M.P.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): An action plan is under consideration of the Government for the past several years to build a bypass and fourlanes of the National Highway Mumbai-Agra between Indore and Dewas. This Highway passes through the city and as a result thereof accidents take place every now and then. During the recent past a survey for this pass was also conducted under the aegis of World Bank. The cost of construction may also increase because of delay in taking up this work. I, therefore request the Central Government to start the construction work without any further delay.

14.29 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Loss of Lives due to Heavy Rains and Landslides during Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up discussion under Rule 193. The time available is two hours. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. .

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Before I start, I would like to know since two days have elapsed in between, whether the Home Minister wants to add anything; because many news items appeared in the newspapers which are quite contradictory to what he has said. I being one of the Members of the supporting party, would like to know whether the newspapers are right or the Government is right. I will urge upon him to share the information with us so that it will be easier for us to react.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I do not know which newspaper report the hon. Member is referring to. But I can give you some latest information which we have received regarding different aspects of this tragedy.

It is with deep regret that I have to inform the House that the number of total deaths has now gone up to 194. Last time, when I made a statement in this House, the figures