

*and
Demands for Grants—J & K*

provide easy surface communication between North and South bank of the river but would also greatly help the people of Arunachal Pradesh in removing the existing transport barriers through upper Assam. The strategic importance of the bridge from the point of defence as well as opening up of trade and commerce with South East Asia was raised at different levels by linking the proposed highway from Burma. The recent exploration of oil fields at the North bank specially in Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts of Assam and part of Arunachal Pradesh further justified the need for early construction of the bridge to connect the existing oil installation at the South bank of Brahmaputra. The Planning Commission approved this project during Eighth Plan period in accordance with the recommendation of LC Jain Committee formed to formulate plans under clause 7 of Assam Accord. The Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Surface Transport jointly took up the project and decided to start construction immediately after completion of the Jogighopa Bridge scheduled for completion by October, 1996. The North East Council also agreed to partly finance the project.

The Railway Ministry has been kind enough to allocate rupees two crore in the current budget for survey, preparation of techno feasibility report and estimates but the real work cannot be started unless all the required formalities are completed by September, 1996. I, therefore, urge upon the concerned agencies of the Central Government to expedite the matter so that the real construction work is started by the end of 1996.

(viii) Need for early Completion of Gandak Irrigation Project in Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Gandak Project was started about 25 years ago with a view to solve the irrigation problem of North Bihar. But it could not be completed till today as a result of which a loss is being incurred instead of profit. The land which was used for farming has either been acquired by the Government or production has reduced in that area.

I, therefore, request the central Government to get the Gadak Project completed without any further delay.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before you take up the next item I have a point of order. Since the commencement of the session of this Lok Sabha, I have not got any opportunity to speak. I have also discussed this matter with you in your chamber also. I am seeing that T.V is telecasting views of so many members but my agony is that I am not being given any opportunity to speak. You know that I

was not given a chance to express my views even on the issue of Vidarbha. I come and sit in the House at 9.30 A.M. and give notice to raise my point in the Zero Hour. Even then I do not get an opportunity. How shall I face the people when I go back to my constituency after the session ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have told in the morning that I will give chance to all. When there was so much interruptions in the House, I had to adjourn the House. I shall give you a chance tomorrow.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Such a situation will arise if you take up national issues in Zero Hour
... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well. We shall keep this thing in mind in future.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : If a national issue is discussed in Zero Hour then there may be a chance of dispute. I am speaking proud words from a little mouth but you should keep in mind that uproarious scenes would be created on such issues. Therefore, such issues should not be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

14.25½ hrs.

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1996-97
AND**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir budget. Before calling anybody to speak on it, I would like to request that too much discussion has been held on this issue and now we want to complete it soon. I have to make two submissions. The first is that please speak on budget only and secondly you should not take more than five minutes. Four-five members are there in my list.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (RAJAPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I said yesterday, I hope that this is the last time that I will get an opportunity to speak on Budget of Jammu and Kashmir because hopefully by next time the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their Assembly would debate the Budget.

Sir, it is always misconstrued when somebody raises a question about the amount spent in Jammu and Kashmir as if raising an issue of that sort means an act of anti-nationalism. Somebody is asking questions whether