

- (3) Backlog of rebate arrears to be cleared immediately.
- (4) Rebate on Government purchases should be restored.
- (5) Condition of pre-audit of marketing institutions to clear rebate claims be removed.
- (6) Provide sufficient working fund to the Khadi institutions.
- (7) Interest on village industries should be kept at par with other sectors provided by NABARD and it should in no case be more than NABARD refinance rate with subsidy element.

(vii) Need to further probe into the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind consent, I would like to make a statement under Rule 377.

The disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose since August 18, 1945 eludes conclusive answer for the people of the country. India is a democratic republic and the people have an inalienable right to know all about its national hero of Netaji's stature.

The Government's latest stance in this regard was stated by former Prime Minister, Late Morarji Desai on August 28, 1978 while participating in the debate on this subject in the Lok Sabha which is as under:

"The Shah Nawaz Committee and the Khosla Commission hold the report of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death following a plane crash as true. Since then, reasonable doubts have been cast on the correctness in the two reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of the witnesses have been noticed. Some further contemporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, Government find it difficult to accept that the earlier conclusions are decisive."

This statement clearly indicates that the Government did not accept the report of Shah Nawaz Committee and Khosla Commission as conclusive and decisive. Consequently it indicates that there is room for further probe.

Recently, the Supreme Court of India, in its recent judgement, on the issue of conferment of 'Bharat Ratna' 'posthumously', stated "the Government had no material to establish whether he (Netaji) was alive or dead after plane crash in Taiwan on August 18, 1945."

This again leaves room for further investigations.

Under the circumstances, I urge upon the Government to make a Statement containing the Government's views in the light of the Supreme Court's observations on August 4, 1997.

(viii) Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Orissa for promoting tourism in the State

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Gifted with abundant natural beauty, Orissa is one of the States, most suitable for promoting tourism. Apart from the famous golden triangle of Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar, there are several other places having a lot of potentialities which, if developed, will find places in the tourist map of India. Hirakud Dam, Simlipal National Park, Padhanpat of Deogarh, Vikramkhole in Jharsuguda district, Leaning temple of Huma, ancient Shiva temple of Kualo in Dhenkanal district, Tikarpara, Niusinghmath and Harishankar on the Gandhamardan mountain are a few among many attractive places which need the attention of the Government for development on priority.

I would request the Union Minister of Tourism to look into the matter provide adequate funds to State Government of Orissa in this regard soon.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Item No. 10, Demands for Supplementary Grants (Railway).

13.46 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1997-98 — Contd....

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members for participating in the discussion on the Demands for Supplementary Grants of Railways with keen interest, and giving important suggestions. As I said yesterday, our Railway budget and supplementary demands are so important that whenever discussion is held, every hon'ble Member participates in

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

it and tries to make important suggestions in regard to his area and to improve the railways and expects also that the Minister of Railways will not only pay attention to his suggestions but will accept most of the suggestions also. As I said earlier also, we try to make all out efforts as it is my desire to serve the people atleast as a Minister of Railways because it serves the double purpose, on one hand the works in your area get done and on the other hand, we also get credit that such work has been done during the period of so and so Minister of Railways. That is why we keep on making all out efforts but sometimes the situation becomes beyond our reach and we become helpless and as the hon'ble Members have said and as we can see that there are a total of 39 items in it and there is some limitation in supplementary budget as it is very difficult to go beyond that. I have a list of all the States and the suggestions made by the hon'ble Members last time in regard thereto. Today while stating this I feel very happy that most of the assurances given by us in different States have been fulfilled and I have with me the information of all the States.

In the last year's budget speech, I had said about Andhra Pradesh that we would remodel the Vijayawada station yard. We have included it in the budget. We had informed about conducting survey of Dharmavaram Pakala line and taking further action, this work has also been included in the budget. We have also included the work of Raichur-Macherala-Nalgonda line. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, today I don't want to take much time of the House but I have fulfilled most of the assurances given in regard to different States.

When I became the Minister of Railways for the first time and was presenting the first Railway Budget, I saw too much discontentment among the hon'ble Members at that time but now that in gradually decreasing. The main reason is that we were over-burdened with work load at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* discontentment will remain forever because when there was no railway line, people wanted railway line. That time narrow gauge line was being laid and once a narrow gauge line was laid, people thought it a big achievement. After narrow gauge, when metre gauge was being laid, people wanted that instead of narrow gauge, metre gauge might be laid. When metre gauge was laid, the people started thinking about gauge conversion. Now when gauge conversion is going on, our friends from Kerala are demanding for doubling the lines. So necessities and demands keep on increasing but I am not saying that I have met all the major demands made by the States but most of the demands have been fulfilled.

If you like, I can give you information about all the States but it will take more time. I have information about all the States.

So far as the question of Assam and North East is concerned, we had made announcements in the budget of 1997-98 for gauge conversion from Katghal to Bairvi and to lay new railway line from Bairvi to Shairon. Now we have included them also in these demands. I think that most of the railway lines in the North-Eastern States have been approved and work is going on. Just now our friends were discussing about Bihar. We had given an assurance regarding Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* If you want me to say something meaningful let me do so; otherwise I will simply deliver a speech and wind up within two minutes. If you want that all the things should be done properly, then you must have patience....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : What about the gauge conversion of Quilon—Virudhunagar line? ...*(interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You should understand one thing that this is not the matter of one State. If proposals of your party are accepted it does not mean that your party is not in existence in Bihar. Every party is everywhere. Do you want to show that you are not concerned with the development of Bihar. What do you want to say. Our friend from Bihar, Shri Brahamanand Mandal has demanded about construction of a bridge over river Ganga in Monghyr. Our Friends, from the Left Front are also present in the House and everybody was talking about our last decision and this time we have included in the Supplementary Budget the scheme relating to the construction of bridge over river Ganga.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Hon'ble members were raising the matter again and again regarding construction of a railway line from Nirmali to Bhaktiai and Shri Devendra ji, who is not present here, was very much interested in this. The matter relating to construction of a railway line between Nirmali and Bhaktiai falls under the constituency of Shri Virendra ji. This matter is very important because people had to travel through Nepal after covering a very long distance. Shri Jaiswal ji is present here and he knows that if this railway line is completed the distance will be reduced by 100 k.m. Earlier they had to travel extra 100 k.ms. Shri Ram Bahadur Singh had raised the similar matter regarding construction of a railway line between Maharajganj and Dhamarda. We have connected these places. Now the question before us is to have a survey from Sitamarhi to Siwan or Sitamarhi to Darbhanga.

Our friend Nitish Kumar ji is sitting here. Nitishji has given a very good suggestion and I have accepted that.

It contains two things. Ramashraya Babu has raised the matter for connecting Fatehpur to Islampur and Islampur to Rajgir and Rajgir to Hiswa or Bodhgaya by rail. Both circuit is covered by this. I agree with you and assure you that laying of railway line between Islampur and Rajgir will be definitely included in the next year's Budget. But you have just mentioned that if the distance of 22-23 kilometre between Hiswa to Rajgir is connected then it would be very beneficial. I want to tell you that we have considered this and have decided that if we can connect these places in this Budget, then it will definitely be done, otherwise we will complete this work under modification plan. I announce this matter here. Bodhgaya will be connected directly by railway by connecting Hiswa and Rajgir.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a question of railway terminal in Gaya. I want to tell that terminal is there but it is to be developed. Shri Sibu Soren ji is sitting here.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Please take up Fatuha-Islampur case also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have told that we would do that first of all we have to wait for the survey report and all such formalities are to be completed. I do not want to work in such a way that if I do not remain Railway Minister tomorrow then the works started by me may remain unfinished and people may start saying that Railway Minister made only announcements. All those works undertaken should be started only after completing all formalities and with a consideration to feasibility of the project.

I want to tell Sibu Soren ji that all the demands of South Bihar-Ranchi-Lohardaga-Tori are included in the Budget and we are going to lay the foundation stone there on 23rd. We have announced that we would introduce Swaranjayanti Express trains. I am glad to announce that all over the country we are going to start four Swaranjayanti Express trains from four places in the entire country from 15 to 20 August. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon. Minister, Sir, what are the routes?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : At present, I do not want to go into details regarding routes etc. I have said earlier that routes would be shortest, because nobody wants to travel by a long route. We have started Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Patna *via* Lucknow because we wanted to connect Lucknow also but very few people travel by this train. Nobody is ready to travel in this train. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is no sense in travelling Delhi to Patna *via* Lucknow. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Nitishji first you listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, whole House is supporting us. People from Kerala are also supporting. Direct train from Patna to Delhi should be started by passing Lucknow. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Surendra Yadav has not travelled a single day by this train ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him finish his reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a very big demand was for Patna-Gaya line. The matter was for doubling the railway line between Patna and Gaya. The work is under progress and tenders have been invited. Ramashraya Babu had come yesterday and had spoken on this issue. This year we have provided seven crore rupees and ten crore rupees for this project. We had shown papers also.

14.00 hrs.

We would double the railway line in a phased manner because in the case of broad gauge line it is always done in phases. If it is not done in this manner then all trains will be blocked. That work was under progress. The same position is with regard to Arrah-Sasaram railway line. Arrah-Sasaram rail line project has also been included in the budget and has been cleared by the CCA. Our friend Shri Ratilal Verma ji is not present here. His demand was for a railway line between Koderma and Giridih and from Hazaribagh to Hatia *via* Barkakana. That has been done. We have discussed about all the important railway lines in South Bihar and the railway bridges in Monghyr and Jamalpur are also included in this. Despite all these things, the survey of new projects will be conducted first. We will consider the matter after survey. You please tell about your problem. The Jharkhand Mail from Chhotanagpur Division of South Bihar will start plying from 21st. We are going there. If you want to accompany us, you are welcome. This is not a party matter. Inaugural function of this train will be held there. ...(*Interruptions*)

I want to tell one thing ...(*Interruptions*) you first understand me and then speak. I have got the complete list of surveys but I do not want to waste your time by reading out this list here. ...(*Interruptions*) To conduct survey is not a matter of Parliament's Budget. If you think that survey order. ...(*Interruptions*). Regarding survey

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matter you tell us. Survey is under our authority and on this matter either you have spoken in the House or in the Consultative Committee meeting or in the informal meeting of Consultative Committee. We have no problem in conducting survey. As I have said that regarding survey matter, our friends have expressed their view and we have conducted survey in 90 per cent cases. That is right. Railways have to pay one or two lakh rupees but sometimes Hon'ble Members have to be answerable towards the people of their constituencies. People of their constituencies ask them. We know what type of enquiries people make about it. So, we do not care for money. When the survey report of railway comes, then we consider the percentage of viability of survey. But as far as survey is concerned and if an Hon'ble Member says that this survey is very important, we see the map and if we think the survey to be important, we get it conducted. I have a complete list of the surveys and if you want, I can give it to the Hon'ble Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.03 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

Similar is the case of North Bihar. In North Bihar we have converted from Mansi to Sahersa, from Sahersa to Farbisganj and then it became necessary to take the line to Farbisganj otherwise it would not have any use. Therefore, Katihar to Jogbani via Farbisganj has been covered. Line from Sahersa to Purnea via Madhepura, Banmankhi is also important. This time we have taken up this line, next time we will take up that line. We need not to ask anybody for this. We know the relative importance of all the lines and what should we do ...*(Interruptions)* I have already told that it has been taken up. What should we take up? ...*(Interruptions)* Which bridge? ...*(Interruptions)* In Jammu and Kashmir I made a declaration. Then there is the question of North East Jammu and Kashmir. I had said that I will go to Jammu and Kashmir and I will lay the foundation stone at three places. I will get the work started. I went there and Hon'ble Prime Minister also went there. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you take the things likely? Extend DMU, or extend that *(Interruptions)* when we went there, at three places. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I got its foundation laid at three places; Udhampur, Kazipur and Baramullah. I would gladly like to inform the Hon'ble Members that when Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh,

Karnataka, Kerala and other areas came to me and put forth this before me, I assured all of them. Somewhere it was Rs. 18 crore in Tamil Nadu it was Rs. 50 crore. Somewhere else it was increased. I had given the assurance anticipating the increase in budgetary support and I am happy that it has been increased by 170 crores. The target was of 2000 crore rupees. I had said that we should get it. Earlier it was 1370 crore rupees. Later we received 170 crore rupees. If we deduct 170 crore rupees from the targetted amount it comes to 1830 crore rupees. We have issued the orders to increase the amount for the places in proportion which we had told. Similarly was the case of Jammu and Kashmir. Many of the Members of Parliament were thinking that it may be that the line is extended from Udhampur to Katra only. Keeping this in mind, we went to Baramullah and Kazipur. Prime Minister, Shri Gujaral was also there. Then at Udhampur Shri Deve Gowda was there. We issued instructions to start the work at the three places.

Madam Chairman, you will be glad to know that I have constituted a coordination committee in cooperation with the State Government. The State Chief Secretary and two officials of State Government and one official of the Railway is there so that there may not be any problem in acquiring the land, otherwise there will be a communication gap. Someone might say that it is extremist, someone will say that the railway is not prepared. The railway will say that the State Government is not prepared. We have allocated 100 crore rupees for Jammu and Kashmir, out of which 75 crore rupees are allocated for this land, which is not issued. Therefore, we have planned to expedite the work. Similar is the scheme for Jammu to Rajouri Punchh. We have issued orders for its survey. It has come from the Prime Minister's office of which we made the declaration there.

[English]

Survey for extension of railway link to Doda, Bhadarwa, Rajouri and Punchh and there again in Jammu Division from Baramulla to Kupwara in Kashmir Division.

[Translation]

Order for survey of these areas as announced has also been given. Similar is the case of Karnataka, we have our colleagues from Karnataka. I am happy and I feel that the line from Gulbarga to Bidar is also very important. The area between Gulbarga to Bidar is very backward. It has been included in this budget, Similarly regarding Chibbellapur to Kolar, Shri Jalappa being a Minister, cannot make a speech here but through a letter has requested to consider it after getting the survey conducted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Sir, the survey is over and now you have to only provide funds. Fifty per cent of the work has already been completed. You have to provide funds for gauge conversion in the Supplementary Budget. This is my request. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him finish first.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, I have written four letters to you in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : May be you have written four letters or more, whatever is possible, I will do.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, you have assured about this project. ...(*Interruptions*) Please allocate funds for this ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Survey regarding gauge conversion is being conducted ...(*Interruptions*). I have told that, you may write 4 letters or 400 letters it makes no difference. What is possible will be done. Why do you worry ...(*Interruptions*)

In a meeting, Shri Reddy has also said the same. He raised the case of Gadag to Harpanahalli. I had given the assurance last time. But I said that this time we had to take up a big project and in this big project we have included Gulbarga to Bihar which is an important railway line. But we will take it up next time. This is an important line, we will certainly consider it. Similarly the line from Gadag to Gabbadi, is also an important. We will consider this also.

I had given assurance in my speech in Madhya Pradesh and I am telling about what we have got fulfilled. In Madhya Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*) We have assured about the new railway line from Rattlam to Ambikapur and we have fulfilled this assurance. It has been included in the current budget. Shri Sunder Lal Patwa ji is not here, he has requested for a survey from Chindwara to Nagpur. Orders have been given for that.

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : You have missed Kerala.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am coming alphabetically...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, if you go on reacting to them, this will be the situation. You finish your speech

first. After that each one of hon. members can seek clarification, if necessary.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Well, my colleague, Mr. Jena is not here. He told me about a new railway line from Puri to Konark. On demand of Shri K.P. Singh Deo the rail line was extended from Talcher to Sambhalpur. There is a long pending demand regarding a rail line between Vimlagarh and Talcher. We will definitely consider it.

In case of Punjab, I had given the assurance for a rail line between Abohar and Fazilka. It has been included now. We have also considered the demand of my colleague for a Rail bus siding between Beas and Dera Baba Jaimal Singh. An assurance for a rail line between Jalandhar and Pathankot has also been included. Anandpur Sahib Railway Station has been remodelled by allocating fund but my colleague was saying that the 300 years old. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Last time you said that the survey of Sambhalpur Vimlagarh had been completed and today you are saying that we are considering it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am saying that we are considering it to include.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It was regarding a new line toward Raipur to Gorgarh.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Survey has been completed and it has gone to the Planning Commission. We will try to include it in the next Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panigrahi, you are a very senior member. Please let the Minister finish his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Why do you get worried? If I am not here, Minister coming in my place will do the work.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not the paternal property. Please sit down.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I want to say that don't think that suggestions given by you are not considered seriously. Whatever suggestion you have given, we discuss them in various meetings. ...(*Interruptions*) I am talking about the suggestions you have given.

There is hardly any State where four, five or ten important projects are not there. I do not mean that they are not important and they should not be taken up but

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I am talking about the projects in regard to which I have given assurance while you were speaking and which were included in this year's Budget.

Our friends from Tamilnadu had said. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH (Siddhi) : Hon'ble Minister, Sir, by what time you are going to undertake the survey work of Lalitpur and Singrauli railway line and by what time it will be completed?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The matter relating to Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line is under the consideration of the Cabinet and it will be cleared by the Cabinet within a few days. As soon as this matter is cleared. ...*(Interruptions)* Please Listen to me. You always ask to include some railway line in the budget and after that you say that why don't you start the work. The work will only commence when it gets the approval of the Cabinet.

It is for information of my friends from Uttar Pradesh that I have included a lot of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh. The Hon'ble leader of opposition asked about the railway line from Kanpur to Lucknow. The work is in progress on that sector. Shri Brij Bhusan Tiwari and my other friends demanded to connect the railway lines from Gorakhpur to Gonda, Gonda to Bahraich, Bahraich to Sitapur which goes upto Nepal. I think it is an important railway line and we have got it included in this year's Budget. In regard to line from Itawa to Mainpuri.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : There was also a demand for connecting railway line from Mainpuri to Etah.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have already announced that we will do that project. ...*(Interruptions)* We have also undertaken work in Tamilnadu. There was also a demand for Baburam and Damodar in West Bengal for which we have taken a decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are the Chairman of Railway Convention Committee. You are also disturbing him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : What happened to Khalilabad?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Let the survey report regarding Khalilabad come. We will do it afterwards.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : If the Minister is talking about States in alphabetical order how he left Rajasthan in between and took up Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : A to Z, all will be covered. If you do not disturb in between, it would be quicker.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Whatever I had announced for West Bengal last time, I fulfilled it. But one thing is very important about which hon'ble Chairman himself, Shri Ajay Chakraborti, Shri Chitta Basu and other people have made a demand that is the electrification of Barasat to Hasanabad railway line. Even the cost likely to be incurred on this project is only 35 crores. But this is a very important project. If we have the power we will do it before the next budget. Likewise some other demands have come in from these areas. A survey work from Krishna Nagar to Lalgola via Badampur has been ordered. We are looking into the demand put forward by Masudal Hussain for the construction of bridges on Ganges at Nasirpur and Asimganj. We are looking into the doubling of railway line from Kali Narayanpur to Krishna Nagar. A survey work from Purulia to Jhargram has been ordered. Likewise I want to say hon'ble Speaker Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : You have stated about the northern parts of West Bengal but you haven't done anything about other parts. You have not spoken anything about that.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Nothing is mentioned about Kerala.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : He was sitting here when I assured him Kottayam to Erumalai line. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : What about my gauge conversion?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Because of sore throat I cannot speak loudly. Last time I told you that we will connect Kottayam to Erumalai and we did that. Later Shri Farookhji had come to me. He told me about the laying of new rail line from Nagore to Karikal which is a 5-6 kilometre stretch only. It is an approved plan. Only land is to be acquired.

[*Translation*]

I have noted down the suggestions of each and every hon. Member.

[*English*]

I have noted down every suggestion of the hon. Members. What will be the progress, I will write to each and every Member of Parliament.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Udaipur is yet to be linked. ...(*Interruptions*) You have not spoken even a single word about Ajmer, Bhilwara and Chittor. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I believe the Minister has taken note of your points. Let him reply. After the reply of the Minister, you can seek clarifications.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : You have not spoken even a single word about Rajasthan. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the reply of the Minister will go on record. Whatever is being said by others will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Reports are pending but the Govt. is not taking action. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him finish. After that you can ask clarifications.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing goes on record except the reply of the Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Joshiji does not represent entire Rajasthan. M.P.'s from Rajasthan are sitting here and they know what has happened in Rajasthan. ...(*Interruptions*)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : If that is so, you give even a single name from Rajasthan. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This is supplementary Budget.

[*English*]

The Minister is not bound to reply to each and every point. You must remember this. What I am telling is out of courtesy. I am not going to oblige everybody.

[*Translation*]

I am saying this only. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Joshiji is used to making a noise in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am not a computer. My mind is not a computer. In my last year's budget speech I had said that I would consider it. This matter is related to every State. Shri Jai Prakash, M.P. from Haryana State is sitting here. He has also put forward his demands. The same is the case with our friends from Gujarat. If we all start discussing the issue of development, it will take four and a half hours. Last time four and half hours were spent on the discussion. Therefore, I have said that we will consider the suggestions given by the hon. members. I had said in my previous speech that we will provide telephone facility in trains. I am glad to inform you that telephone facility has been provided in Mumbai in August Kranti Express in the first phase and now this facility has also been provided in Rajdhani Express of Calcutta. This facility would also be provided in all Rajdhani Express trains by the end of March. I had said in my previous Budget speech in Parliament that we would bring transparency in Railways. I am happy to say that in Railways, we have made purchases worth Rs. 7000 crore. All the achievements which I mentioned three months back have been displayed in the Exhibition in Pragati Maidan. Any hon. Member, Businessman or even a layman can go and see the items purchased. The people going to this exhibition can also see whether purchases were made through a single tender, collective tender or open tender. I have clearly said that we will purchase goods through open tender. Many of our friends are concerned about the future of wagon industry or other industries. We shall award purchase order to the lowest tender but we shall give preference to our wagon industry and other industries depending upon their respective capacities. Basudev Acharia ji, I am happy to say that we have earned a profit of Rs. 50 crore in the purchase of steel plates and sheet. We have saved Rs. One hundred crore in the

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purchase concrete sleepers. If we save ten percent of it, our total savings would come to Rs. seven thousand crore and if Railways have a saving to Rs. Seven hundred crore, we can lay seven hundred kms. of new rail track.

(Interruptions) I would like to assure the House that there will not be any compromise in the matter of safety and signalling. We are prepared to spend five times more on this to secure safety. I have found that a party applies for single tender, quotes Rs. one-two and the same party quotes Rs. one for the same item when we invite open tender. What does it mean? It means that there is something fishy about it and we want to do away with that. But it does not mean that we would like to compromise about safety aspect. Similarly, our target for loading was 235 million tonnes for four months. We have achieved 138 million tonnes against 135 million tonnes. In the same way according to the estimated income expenditure for July we hope to achieve four per cent higher than the target.

I would like to submit that the Railways have surplus wagons. It has happened for the first time. Last year, I said that more wagons would be produced and twenty thousand wagons have been produced. The result is that today we have surplus wagons. I would especially like to tell the Iron, cement and Petroleum industries that there is no shortage of wagons for these things and I am ready to provide as many wagons as they require. Cleanliness drive has been started from 1.8.97. I myself took a broom and swepted the railway station on the sixth of the month. Not only that I have told all the General Managers, D.R.M.s and Station Superintendents that dignity of labour is an important thing. It will help in maintaining cleanliness. My submission is that all the works are equal. A sweeper feels ashamed when he sees the Minister or the Chairman carrying broom in their hands. We have given top priority to cleanliness. On the occasion of 50th anniversary of our Independence for the first time, we are making a provision for punishment to those who throw litter on the railway station. The point is that when anybody reaches the railway station, he should feel that he has reached the railway station.

It is noticed that the passengers eat at the platform and throw the left over there. It does not look nice. Therefore, we have given top priority to cleanliness. Keeping in view the security point, we had said that we will install close circuit TVs at the stations. We are happy that close circuit TVs have been installed at nine stations i.e. Chattrapati Shivaji Terminal, Bhopal, Delhi, New Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Chennai, Bangalore and Trivendrum till now. We can monitor from one point that who is indulging in unlawful activities, who is purchasing tickets by coming in queue three four times, and who is pick pocketing. In this way every activity will be monitored from one place. ... (Interruptions) I had assured that the close circuit TVs

should be installed at some stations before August 15, and it has been done. We hope that close circuit TVs would be installed at all the major stations by the end of this year.

Generally, 60 per cent people are honest but if they spot anything on the ground they tend to pick it up. But if they know that somebody is watching them through a close circuit TV, nobody will dare to touch that thing. With this objective only I have initiated this system. Similarly, wireless sets have been provided in a number of trains for the purpose of monitoring all these activities. As a result of this we have been benefited. We have held meetings on this issue with the Chief Ministers of the States, DGs of police, personnels of R.P.F. and officers of the Home Ministry which has resulted in decrease the incidents of looting which were appearing in the news daily. I would like to say again that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if penalty is imposed for not maintaining cleanliness, most of the women will have to pay penalty. ... (Interruptions) because generally they tend to throw the left overs and other wastes there.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It will not happen. We will pay attention towards it. I was telling about the wireless set or walkie talkie. It has been experienced that the passengers travelling in a coach are not aware about a miscreant, who has entered in another coach. But now this wireless set will be available with the driver, guard and security staff so that they can inform each other when some incident takes place. As a result, there has been a lot of improvement and further improvement is expected.

In respect of the backlog of scheduled castes & scheduled tribes people, it is correct that in the railway, there is no officer of the rank of General Manager or above belonging to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA (Sawai Madhopur) : Mr. Minister, what are you saying that you are not getting any officer.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am telling that till date there is no officer of the rank of General Manager or above belonging to scheduled caste or scheduled tribe. It can't be possible unless the posts above DRM levels meant for them are filled. Therefore, I would like to tell you regarding the method of their promotions. There are four grading in our department. One is called out-standing, which gets five marks. Second is very good which gets four marks. Third one is good which gets three marks and fourth is called average, which gets only two marks. As a result of which he finds no place in the process of

marking. That is why we have adopted a relaxational procedure and we have decided that there will be only two categories. One will be called good and another will be called excellent. And he who will be found below these categories, will become unfit for promotion. Those who get good grading will be placed under the zone of consideration and out of them, persons belonging to SCs, STs would get a chance of promotion...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA (*Banswara*) : When they will not get good grading, how they will get promotions?

[*English*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You are speaking as if you are very much concerned with it and I am not concerned with it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : They are not giving good conduct to the scheduled caste officers. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I was saying that code of conduct and system of writing confidential reports is maintained in services. We can't abolish this system. At the time of writing C.R. sometimes there may be adverse entries. So I have said that some relaxation can be given in the grading of said C.R.

Mr. Pawar has been a Defence Minister. Without having the system of writing C.R., discipline cannot be maintained among junior officers by the higher level officers. ...(*Interruptions*) We will discuss about this later on.

[*English*]

That is not the discussion point here.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : I want to mention one point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing any other point. Please sit down. Mr. Minister, you are taking too much time. You may finish, otherwise, no other item will be taken up.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am going to finish my speech within five minutes.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down and keep quiet.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Lady member is speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What happened, if she is a lady? Why are you crying? Don't act like this. Nothing is going on the record.

[*English*]

In Parliament everybody is equal and rules are same for all. Kindly sit down. Let him finish please. All of you please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing on a new scheme. We want to connect all the International Airports with the rail service. I think that it has been appreciated everywhere, so far as the train accidents are concerned. I am sorry to say that many people die in train accidents. If hon'ble Member look into it he will find that its number is decreasing continuously. Yesterday, one of my friend raised the issue of Kokrajhar. An enquiry has been ordered and it is in process. I want to thank that driver. I also want to give him some award because due to his alertness and presence of mind the blast could not take place. He stopped the running train by using emergency brake. Had he not applied his presence of mind, the life of 400 people would have been in danger. A safety train was moving ahead that train. The blast took place soon after that safety train had left. This train was about to reach its destination. Such incidents are out of our control. For example the train accidents at Bhatinda, Ambala, Kokrajhar and Faridabad were out of our control. Faridabad train accident occurred due to human lapse. It was driver's fault. What punishment will be given to him. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is happening here? Why are you shouting?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got entire data regarding railway accidents 130 accidents occurred during 1960-61. In 1992-93 and 1993-94, 50 incidents of train collision took place but today this number has declined to 26. In the same way, 1455 incidents of derailment took place earlier. In 1990-91, 446 incidents, in 1991-92, 424 incidents and in 1992-93, 414 incidents of derailment took place but now this number has declined to 286. The number of accidents at railway crossings has also come down. The persons killed in those accidents. ...(*Interruptions*) Why are you making noise? I have with me the figures regarding the persons killed in railway accidents during the last five years. In the year 1992-93, 96 persons, in 1993-94, 179 persons and in 1996-97, 82 persons were killed in railway accidents. This includes all the accidents. I am not trying to save them. I would like to say that safety measures are taken to improve the situation. Action is taken against the guilty officials. Sir, through you, I would like to say that our country has 62 thousand km. long network of railway routes. Road accidents also occur in almost every State and many people are killed and somebody is

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

responsible in that case also. But it is a fact that railway accidents are given undue attention and even a small accident involving casualty of a single person invariably becomes a national news.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 6th of this month, I was travelling in a train from Sahibabad via Chanakyapuri and I was surprised to see a person sleeping on a cot in between the railway lines. The engine blew horn several times but the person did not get up. This is the condition of Delhi and people blame Railways for delay and accidents. Whenever in any State, people want to register their protest or show resentment about anything, trains are stopped. Trains are also badly affected due to flood. Trains run smooth and fast in big cities like Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi but in other cities, usually there are jhuggi-jhompri clusters along the railway lines and there would be much more accidents if train passing through these areas maintain high speed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we compare our railways with railways in foreign countries but we lack fencing facilities. We have engines, coaches and our trains can run at a high speed of 200 km. per hour. But how we can do that? Our trains face several hurdles. Sometimes buffaloes, cows or people cross the railway lines and drivers have to take decision in accordance with the circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday one of our colleagues stated that only one bottle of mineral water is given in Rajdhani Express. I enquired into it and ordered for making arrangements in this regard immediately. Explanation in this case will be sought later on. Last year, the backlog in appointment of SCs/STs was 4889 and we have tried to fill it through special recruitment drive and now the number has declined to 1007. The remaining backlog will be cleared within three months. The reservation for SC/ST in Trolley system and catering service provided at railway stations has been increased to 20 percent and 10 percent respectively, which was quite negligible earlier. In this context, I have also issued orders to recruit 50 per cent SC/ST persons till backlog in this field is cleared.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have also formulated a new railway reservation scheme and provided reservation facility at airports itself for the passengers coming from abroad. Now they will be able to get confirmed railway tickets from airport itself for their destination alongwith the air tickets. This will facilitate the foreign tourists and thus boost tourism.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have enough material and points to speak on.....

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sir, as you know that Kosi is flooded every year since long and causes heavy losses.

A small area Saharsa-Purnea remains unattended in this region.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have already told about it and perhaps you were not present at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam Chairman, you have stated that we will be allowed to raise the issues later on. Please now allow me to speak for just one minute.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already said it and I am reminding you that you have yourselves decided about the time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is yet to finish his reply. I told you that this is not the general practice; but even then I told you that I will allow one minute each and you can ask questions. Let the hon. Minister complete his speech, then you will be able to ask questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Madam, would you please allow me? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will reply to their questions later on if you allow me ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What do you want to say by making a noise here. I cannot hear anyone if you all keep on shouting. Even then if you want to shout, you can do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not proper that all the Members are speaking at the same time. You all please keep quiet. Mr. Minister please try to finish your speech at the earliest.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Just now Sharadji was mentioning about Saharsa-Purnea Railway line. Saharsa-Madhepura-Purnea railway line is a short route line and I have made an announcement in this regard before your coming to the House. We will try to link it in this budget itself if funds are available. The survey report of the Araria to Galgalia rail line will be submitted. Except this line, all the other railway lines upto Nepal border have been laid, therefore, laying of this line will be definitely considered. ...*(Interruptions)* First you miss the

proceedings and raise hue and cry later on. We will consider the Puri-Konark rail line and if it is of short route and comes under my jurisdiction. I will get it completed.

If there is any other requirement that will also be fulfilled.

Now, I would like to make two points before you. This year, we are celebrating 50th anniversary of our independence. We have started two exhibition trains on this 50th year of independence. I will request every Hon'ble member that they must go to see these trains and not only see but whenever it passes through their constituency or district they should participate in this exhibition. It has 16 coaches which have been manufactured in special designs. In that exhibition on national integration, freedom fighters and freedom movement, technology tableau belonging to every Ministry and State are displayed. In that exhibition train you can enter from one side and come out from the other side. We have made arrangement for stopping the train for full night in various places so that more and more families can see the train. *...(Interruptions)*. We would like to inform about it not only you but also the entire country through you. We are also inserting advertisement to inform the people about the stations and the days on which that train stops.

A new direct train from Porbander, which is the birth-place of Mahatma Gandhi to Lekhapani will be introduced. The Hon. Members know that railway line has been laid up to Lekhapani and a train has started running on that line. A pleasant information that I would like to share with all of you is that not only upto Dimapur, which I had mentioned earlier, now this railway line has been laid upto Lekhapani *via* Dibrugarh and Dimapur. I wish that, on that line one Rajdhani train should be started. Apart from that one train will start from Kanyakumari. I am going to Porbander on 16th and on 17th I shall be going to Kanyakumari from where the train is proposed to be started. It will go upto Jammu Tawi from Kanyakumari. Therefore as far as the Question of country's unity and integrity is concerned, question of national integration is concerned, question of country's cultural unity is concerned, introduction of these trains will help in further strengthening these bonds.

There are many Questions before me. Shri Basu Deb Acharia is present here. He would stand up and say that why rights were not being restored to the dismissed employees despite the Supreme Court order. I am studying the order of the Supreme Court as well as that of the CAT. The order of the CAT is in their favour against which people had gone to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court might have endorsed CAT's order but let me assure you that I shall implement that order.

Madam Chairperson, question of negating the Supreme Court's order does not arise. Railways being the largest department is beset with various kinds of problems. I have tried to reply to many of them. With these words, I present before the House the Supplementary Demands of the Railways for the year 1997-98 for consideration and passage.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Even though it is not the custom I have promised you that I will call each one of you to put one question. The Minister will not reply immediately. He will take down the points and at the end, he will reply to all the clarifications. Please do not interrupt each other.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call everybody.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Beed) : Madam Chairperson, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I want to express my gratitude to the hon. Minister but I did not get a chance to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. Today, you have provided me that opportunity. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister for inaugurating Ahmedgarh-Beed-Paredi Railway line of my backward region on 31st May and express my gratitude on behalf of my entire region.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Minister through you that when he had inaugurated the work on the railway line, he had said that within 7 days its work would be commenced. But according to the newspaper cutting that is with me the Collector and other officials have clearly stated that the railway officials are not co-operating with them. Therefore, it will take a long time to start the work. The feeling of our State Government and the people of entire region is that its work should start early and should be completed quickly so that people can avail of its benefits, but even after the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister, officials of the Railways are not co-operating with the local officers of the area. I would like to put on record that this was a difficult task, which the Hon. Minister has started, no other Minister could have done this work. Therefore, I would request him that now that he has inaugurated this work, he must see to it that the work starts and provision for funds in future is also made.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not bring in new points. You should ask only the clarifications. Otherwise, if I go on calling everybody, the whole discussion will keep on going. Therefore, I have called Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Madam Chairperson, thank you. I support the Supplementary Grants. As you know, the northern part of West Bengal is a backward area and mainly Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population is living there. In this regard, with a heavy heart, I must say that all the Railway Ministers have neglected this part of West Bengal. There is no double line facility. There is no electrification and nothing of that sort. Even the trains we have asked for are not there.

In the last Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had assured in this House that a Shatabadi-type Express train will start from Calcutta to Coochbehar, conversion of Siliguri to Alipurduar metre-gauge line into broad-gauge line, and survey of New Mayanaguri to Jagigopa via Changrabandha and New Coochbehar-Toofangan-Boxighat line. But nothing has been done.

I would request the hon. Minister that at least there should be a stoppage of Saraight Express and Rajdhani Express at New Coochbehar.

This has to be done because this area and all other areas in North Bengal have got so many problems. So, I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot allow everybody together, I said that you should ask a query for one minute only. After all, this is not the last Railway Budget.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Madam Chairman, for the last one year I have been asking the hon. Minister of Railways to do something to utilise the facility available at Bitragunta for the benefit of the local people.

Then, one officer belonging to the Scheduled Caste was suspended on his retirement day in Hubli Division.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not go on narrating such things. You can give that in writing to him. If you have any question regarding any particular railway project, please ask about that. You can give other things in writing to him so that he will look into them.

...(Interruptions)

14.57 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants to the vote of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has taken note of all the points which you have raised during the course of the debate. This kind of clarification cannot continue for an indefinite period. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, assurance was given from the Chair. You give us an opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, these are only Supplementary Demands. Yesterday, the debate continued upto 11.30 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, please take your seat.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, crores of people are affected ...(Interruptions) If this is not done I will stage a Dharna ...(Interruptions) I am not getting reply for the past one year. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman Sir, ruling was given by the Chair. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order and under what rule are you raising it?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will tell you the rule. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were sitting here and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was in the Chair, she gave the ruling that she would give an opportunity to 10-20 members for seeking clarifications. Now that commitment should not come to an end.

The Commitment is always from the Chair and not from an individual. We would request you that whatever the Chair had said should be obeyed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House has to continue. For how long will it continue is indefinite.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : These are only Supplementary Demands.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : These are only Supplementary Demands and the Minister has taken note of all the points. This will go to Rajya Sabha and it has to be passed there also.

...(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, there is no point of order in it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not concerned with you. You sit down.

[English]

Shri Lodha, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell me how long this will continue? It cannot be continued for an indefinite period.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot allow this.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Chairman Sir, give each of us one minute's time. ...(Interruptions) We are only ten members. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Chairman Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the rule under which you are raising this point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I will tell the rule after discussion. ...(Interruptions). When Madam asked from there for permission to speak then you

permitted the big parties like Bhartiya Janata Party and Congress but did not give permission to small parties. Please give us chance, we will speak for a minute only. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will continue in this manner. Hon'ble Minister has noted down everything. He has given reply to the questions of your party. Your leader has already spoken on this matter and he has covered all the points.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Please give us one minute each to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he has noted down. He will reply later on.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Suggestions have come from two persons. Should I tell about those.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Chairman Sir, when chance has been given to two persons then everybody should get a chance. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rawale, you have already spoken on this matter.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, please listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken last time also.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Everybody should get a chance. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall I allow one Member from each party? There should be some norm.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You had accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What was accepted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If 50 Members are ready to speak then I will allow everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodhaji, please take your seat I have allowed Shri Ram Naik ji.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed Shri Ram Naik. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Chairman Sir, I am not asking any question I want to tell that before you, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee was in the chair and she had said that I would permit everybody to ask one question each. ... (Interruptions) You have come and want to modify that decision slightly. I have two suggestions—first of all, you should give permission to everybody to ask one question each. Otherwise, Minister should not give reply to those questions which have been asked. There should be some similarity. My request is that you give one minute each to every Member. If they ask questions then matter will be over. We can only say that Members from every party do quickly. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This much you understand that these are Supplementary Demands. The House has discussed this matter yesterday till 11 P.M.

SHRI RAM NAIK : When he has decided this matter and if we could not proceed accordingly then how could we give cooperation to you. I would not tell the Members to take their seats. We would not give cooperation. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naik ji, how long this will continue, there should be some limit, 10 minutes or 15 minutes.

[English]

There should be some limit.

[Translation]

I will give you total 15 minutes or 10 minutes and you have to speak on this demand.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : This will be finished within 15 minutes.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I express my views. Sir, you have permitted me. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please complete quickly.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am going to finish my speech in one minute. I would like to ask from the Railway Minister that he announced again and again in the House, in Jodhpur, Ajmer and in Ahmedabad that broad gauge conversion of railway line up to Marwar junction in Jodhpur would be completed by last April. After April, May, June and July have passed, I want to know from him that when and how quickly he would be able to complete this gauge conversion work because at Surya Nagari stop the train was stopped and it blocked the rail traffic from Jodhpur and as a result Marwar junction and Pali district remained cut off from other parts. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have completed the issue of Rajasthan.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Therefore, he should tell that when this work will be fully completed. This much I want to say. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Hon'ble Railway Minister knows that Marathwada is a backward region. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please ask questions only.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Please sanction atleast one demand for grant for Marathwada region of Maharashtra. This is my only request through you. The conversion of Metre guage line between Parbhani and Mukhed has been completed. But from Mukhed to Adilabad the demand of Marathwada region is uniform. You may please try to complete that work as soon as possible through Supplementary Demand.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I made a demand for an order for preliminary engineering survey.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your demand has been fulfilled.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : No. This is for Bargarh via Padampur-Naupada-Raipur rail link. Orders have not been issued. Therefore, no survey is going on. The second line is Talcher-Gopalpur via Hindola and Nayagarh. A preliminary engineering survey have to be taken up on this line.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Yesterday during the debate I have demanded a new Express train from Quilon-Madurai-Palani and Quilon-Chennai-Palani. Palani is one of the holy places in South India. Every day

thousands of pilgrims are going there. The hon. Minister has not mentioned about this new train.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has taken note of your suggestion.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to raise a very important issue before the hon'ble Minister of Railways. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is pending in respect of Agra. Everything has been done.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : From Bandikui to Agra Fort, it should be connected with railway line. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you speak, Let him speak.

SHRIMATI USHA MEENA : Whatever has been left by hon'ble Minister, is related not only to Rajasthan but also to whole India and Department of Railways. The hon'ble Minister has not made any provision in the budget for the problems of coolies. At every station they are facing a lot of difficulties regarding their habitation and shelter. I would like to ask from hon'ble Minister. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railway to introduce a new Kiul rail from Gaya in Bihar to Howrah and Delhi. I wrote many letters to upgrade the Lakshisarai Railway station to full fledged railway station and to make halt at Sakhisarai railway station but the hon'ble Minister of railway did not pay any attention to any of my request and non was accepted. I again demand from the Minister of Railway that Sakhisarai railway station should be upgraded as a full fledged. I again demand from the Minister of Railway that Sakhisarai railway station should be upgraded as a full fledged railway station and a halt should be made and the doubling of railway line in Gaya Kiul Railway station should be carried out. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) . Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to submit one or two points before the Minister through you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nitishji, your Buddhist circuit has been completed. It has been announced.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister for laying new railway line from Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur. The local people have been requesting to lay foundation stone for new railway line from Madhubani to Jainagar. The hon'ble Minister had given an assurance in this regard. I would like to

request him to conduct a survey in this regard by allocating funds in this budget itself and announcement for new railway line should be made in the next session. I also request the hon'ble Minister to make arrangements for extension of Darbhanga-Uatkal Express to Delhi.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : The frequency of E.M.U. trains from Asansol to Vardhman and Vardhman to Asansol should be increased. The Poorva and other trains should be stopped at Raniganj station. The Rajdhani Express which goes *via* Patna should be stopped at Asansol also. Similarly, our platform should be developed as model platform and level of the platform, which is very low, should be raised. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri Jai Prakash's version.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : I would be thankful to you if the new railway line from Bhiwani to Rohtak and Rohtak to Hissar in Haryana is laid. You gave a positive reply on the question of over-bridge in Hissar. My second question relates to arrangement. Some workers of All India S.C., S.T. Railway Employees Association are sitting on hunger strike in Bikaner. The Bikaner sub-division is not providing the facilities of telephone and office to them. You are requested to make arrangements for providing these facilities to them.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Sufficient money has already been allocated to Punjab in Supplementary Demands. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhargava, please take your seat. You speak daily.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : My submission is that the railway line from Jaipur to Agra should be converted into broad gauge.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Foodgrain is supplied to the entire country from Punjab. Over bridges are urgently required there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chandumajra, you have submitted your point. Please take your seat.

*Not recorded.

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PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I have not submitted my point yet you have not listened fully. We have been speaking for the past two years. Maximum quantity of foodgrains is supplied to entire country from Puniab. Due to lack of overbridges, we found vehicles standing here in long queues. Therefore, overbridges should be constructed in Sarhand, Karadi, Bhatinda, Sanaam and Lehra Bagh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to meet those demands of our State, as early as possible, which we have mentioned in the letter addressed to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman Sir, when we, MP's from Bihar rise to speak in the House, the whole House thinks that in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't say like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that many Schemes have been formulated in Bihar but to what extent they are being implemented? It can be imagined by the fact that one train had to be introduced from Darbhanga, which had been announced by Hon'ble Minister but till date nothing in respect of that train. ...*(Interruptions)* Please, let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)* Will you not allow me to speak? ...*(Interruptions)* He had announced to conduct the survey of Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur new railway line. It was also not included. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, we will include that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : One train has to be introduced from Darbhanga to Delhi even it was not included. Broad gauge has been laid but there is no train in that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Minister wants to give statement then let him do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Not even a single word has been said about Jaipur, Ajmer etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are asking your question. Please tell something about the work not being done in Bandikui to Agra for the last two years.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, you sit down.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Please have a session on railways. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : In Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is now replying. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : In the last Session, the Minister had promised that a new daily train service would commence from Belgaum to Mumbai. The new train service has not yet been started. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to kindly introduce this service. ...*(Interruptions)* There was a mention in the Railway Budget of taking up the survey work for a line between Kittur and Dharwad. The survey work has not yet been started. Hence I would request you to kindly start the survey work immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will include that.

[Translation]

You please sit down You speak fast.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have allowed at least two to three representatives from each party.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : It is not a question of a party. It is a question of a State.

[Translation]

Not even a single new train has been introduced in Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Jai Prakash ji has already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the Hon'ble members for their cooperation. I feel that in future we should not go into details. We must go safely. I think it will be best option. I know, all people demand one thing that train must stop at each station. All people must be given 10 minutes time each and the name and place of employee to be punished must be mentioned. That is why I will discuss the points raised by Hon'ble Members. Shrimati Rajni Patil has talked about Ahmadnagar, Beed, Parli and Bajinath. I only want to say this much to her that the land has been received there and the work has started. Final location survey of 11 k.m. has been completed. In regard to land acquisition, I had said that the work will be executed speedily after acquiring land from Government of Maharashtra. They have been requested. The work has been started wherever the land has been acquired.

Secondly, Amar Roy Pradhan ji has said about Hawrah-Jalpaiguri Express train. I have already said this in Supplementary Budget. I had told you in this very session that the train will be introduced from Hawrah to Jalpaiguri.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : We are already in the next Budget on Railways.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : In this current year itself, train will be started.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pradhan, what more do you want?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Luxmji has written about employees, she used to write 100-200 letters regarding employees. I will see them and I will reply and convey the action taken.

Lodhaji, has asked emphatically about Jodhpur-Marwar that when it will be completed. I would like to tell him that it will be completed by December, 1997. What more he wants in this connection. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lodhaji is happy, congratulate him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : After that Traffic Block will also be started from first of November. Our colleague from Marathwara has mentioned about Mukher and Adilabad. I have said in the very beginning that the Marathwara and Vidharbha region are very backward as far as rail line is concerned. We ourselves are looking into it and you need not say anything about that. All

possible will be done in the next Budget to remove its backwardness, which line has to be taken and what can be done. I had said in my first speech that Western Maharashtra is developed in regard to railways but Marathwara and some other areas are totally backward.

K.P. Singh Deo ji has said about survey. I have complete list of survey with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You send it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will sent full list available with me in regard to survey to Hon'ble Members. If there is any shortcoming in it then....(*Interruptions*) Suresh ji, has talked about Kulong and Madurai. I have to say that we are taking one by one. Everything has been completed from Shillong to Vridhinagar via Tinashi. Therefore, it will be considered.

[*English*]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : I am asking about new trains.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no announcement is made about new trains in Supplementary Budget. There is a plan about train in General Budget only. It is our responsibility to fulfill the commitment made in the General Budget. If new trains are demanded daily, it is not going to materialize.

We are concerned about the problem of porters. Prior to this the porters did not get anything but now we have atleast given them a pass to travel in the entire country. All have been issued a second class pass to travel the entire country. If there is any complaint in this regard then tell us. We have done it for the first time after 50 years of Independence. Similarly in regard to casual labourers, I have said that out of 57 thousand casual labourers, 40 thousand have been made permanent. Remaining 17 thousand casual labourers will also be made permanent within two-three months. After that he has said that Bandikui and Agra Port should be connected with railway line. I told him to come and we would call our officer and discuss over it. ...(*Interruptions*)

You first listen to me. You pass appropriation bill in supplementary budget. It means that if amount is not spent for which it is meant then we can spend that amount somewhere else. If today you say that spend amount on it then wherefrom we will bring the money, whether we have to provide money from our own pockets. ...(*Interruptions*) but we would see it. Now listen to Shatrughan Prasad ji. He wants the doubling of Kiul line. Somewhere issue is of doubling of line, somewhere of

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

electrification and we are looking for nearest points. ...*(Interruptions)* We have laid the foundation stone and the work of doubling has been done from Katihar to Jogbani and we are not going to tell here that after that which train would stop here, which would stop at Lakhisarai and which would not. Afterwards he raised the issue of Hatidah station....*(Interruptions)* It is not the issue of party. The fact is that work on Mokama bridge over Ganga has been completed and on its one side is Hatidah, it is written Hatidah junction but train goes from Hatidah to Patna also but it is not full fledged station, but a flag station.

He demands that status of a full fledged station should be given to it and I think that status should be given and will be given. ...*(Interruptions)*. We have noted down all the demands. Naval Kishore Rai ji has demanded for conducting survey of Sitamarhi, Jainagar via Sonbarsa, Metha Modh broadgauge lines and a survey will be conducted of Janakpur road, Jainagar, Madhubani via Madhubani. Haradhan Roy ji has demanded for a railway line from Asansol to Bardhaman. We are considering it. Jai Prakash ji has demanded for Rewari, Rohtak and Hissar line and we are considering it because we have a plan under which Government of India have sanctioned six thousand crore rupees for national capital territory of Delhi. We don't want repetition, so I said that we can work in a coordinated way. If they would not do it then we will do it but it is done by them then what is the need to do it again. ...*(Interruptions)*

Our friends from Punjab have asked when will a survey for Kalka-Parvanu be conducted. If our friends do not read, then what can I do. We have included this item in the budget and they are demanding for survey. Kalka-Parvanu is included in item No. 6. Fatmiji has demanded for survey regarding Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur line for which order has been issued. If it has not been done then I'll find it out. Not only survey would be conducted but we will consider it seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the Members of Parliament should speak with patience. I have certain figures with me. I know replies of all the questions related to each constituency. I keep myself busy in it. I would only like to say that ask questions one by one. All questions will be answered. With these words, I would like to tell the hon'ble members that we would send the written replies of all the letters, suggestions and things which were left during discussions, within one month. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : What is the progress on the River Damodar Railway at Bankura? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1997-98 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1998, in respect of the head of demand entered in the second Column thereof against Demand Nos. 2 and 16".

The motion was adopted

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(RAILWAYS) FOR 1997-98 SUBMITTED TO
THE VOTE OF THE LOK SABHA

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2	3
		Rs.
2	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	5,000
16	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	20,000
	Railway Funds	25,000
	Total	50,000

15.33 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 4 BILL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1997. The hon. Minister of Railways shall move for leave to introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 12.8.97.