

I would, therefore, urge the Minister of Surface Transport to act immediately on the above recommendation and entrust to the Directorate General of Border Roads the responsibility of maintenance of NH 52 between Balipara and Jonal in the North Bank of Assam.

(iv) Need to take steps to check illegal mining of coal in the country

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, After nationalisation of Coal mines, some small mines were abandoned by declaring them unprofitable but illegal mining has been continuing in these mines as a result of which the Government is suffering losses as also ecological imbalance is being caused in the region due to unscientific mining. Many accidents have occurred in these mines due to hazardous mining.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that these mines should be handed over to the state Government so that these coal mines could be exploited to provide benefit to the state.

(v) Need to grant more functional Autonomy to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : As part of liberalisation scheme, the Government has set up Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The Disinvestment Commission, in its third report, has nailed the bureaucratic and administrative controls of the Department of Telecommunication (DOT) which plague the working of the MTNL, particularly when private competition rides high in Delhi and Mumbai basic telecom circles. The Commission has expressed the opinion that the linkages between the DOT and the MTNL need to be dismantled so that the MTNL could function with maximum efficiency and fetch best possible price in the next tranche of disinvestment. The DOT should stop treating the MTNL as its own extension unit. Further, the MTNL should be vested with maximum autonomy and corporate powers in their management and functioning to enable it to fulfil their new role in the telecom area.

I request the Government to implement the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission in relation to the MTNL on a top priority basis.

(vi) Need to provide Civic Amenities to residents of Union Territory of Chandigarh

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, thousand of people in the Union Territory of Chandigarh are living in their own houses constructed outside the Lal Dora land of villages. Similarly thousands of people are living in slum clusters in the city. Out of the total population of 7-8 lakhs as many as one lakh persons have not been provided

electricity and water connections. The basic amenities like drinking water, roads and sewerage are also not available there. These people are struggling since long to get these amenities.

Not only this, some officers of the Chandigarh administration are pursuing the policy of demolishing such houses in some parts of the city. During the last few days some pucca houses have also been demolished in labour colony, Shanti Nagar, Manimajra, Shakti Nagar colony sector 41-A, and sector 37 including Palsora Colony without serving any proper notice resulting loss of property worth lakhs of rupees. Such activities causes resentment among people.

This year we are celebrating 50th year i.e. golden jubilee of our independence. Therefore, it is imperative for the Union Government to make efforts to remove injustice being meted out to every citizen on this occasion.

At the end I demand from Union Government that basic amenities like electricity, water, sewerage and ration cards should be provided immediately to each citizen living in Chandigarh irrespective of the fact they live in village, colony or any other part of the city. Further policy of demolishing the constructed houses should be banned and where houses have been demolished illegally, compensation should be paid to the owners of such houses and action should be taken against the guilty officers.

(vii) Need to take steps to check incidents of burning alive of people due to practising of sorcery in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, the incidence of burning alive of people accused of practising sorcery is on the increase in the district of Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh, putting the civilised society to shame. Not only the alleged practitioners of sorcery are the victims of the bizarre murders, but the Naxalites, police informers and highway robbers are also meeting with the same fate.

Sir, the Kammanapally incident which took place in April, 1977 claimed the lives of three persons, including an aged woman. The gruesome practice was being adopted by the villagers to settle scores. Seventeen persons, including five women and a girl were roasted alive in the district of Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh during the last five years. On an average, three persons are becoming victims of this shameful and aboriginal practice. Even in this computer era, several people, particularly the rural folk, strongly believe that black magic and sorcery could cause psychological and physical problems. They also believe that if goddesses get angry, the villagers would be affected with diseases like cholera, small pox and so on. They also tend to believe that sorcery and witchcraft was the reason behind fire accidents and natural calamities.

I urge the Union Government that steps should be taken or the State Government of Andhra Pradesh should be

directed to take steps to check such type of incidents of burning people alive.

(viii) **Need to provide employment to people whose land has been acquired for Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam, Tramilnadu**

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu): Sir, in the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, the third phase expansion has taken place recently, for which necessary land was acquired from the local agricultural people. Further, staff quarters have also been constructed by acquiring land from the local people. At that time, the authorities gave assurance to provide employment to the members of the families who have provided their land to the Centre. But so far the authorities have not fulfilled their promise and the local people are now thrown out of their agricultural livelihood. They are without any job and are very much agitated.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to look into this issue immediately and take urgent action to provide employment to those families who have provided their agricultural land to the Research Centre. Moreover, the recruiting centre should be shifted from Mumbai to Chennai for the convenience of the local people.

13.49 hrs.

[English]

RE : INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
BILL -- *Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now let us go to the next item- further consideration of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill. Shri Basudeb Acharia was on his legs and he has already consumed nineteen minutes. Achariaji, please tell how much time you will require.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I shall take another ten to fifteen minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is good.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, yesterday I was mentioning about what will be our requirement, as per the Common Minimum Programme, for infrastructure development. The requirement will be to the extent of 200 million dollars, that is, Rupees seven lakh crore.

Sir, the extent of resources generated by L.I.C. and G.I.C. is such that even after assuming that there is no improvement in their performance, these two organisations can provide or will be able to provide to the extent of Rs. 1,00,000 crore during the next five years. Then why should we invite the foreign insurance companies when our L.I.C. and G.I.C. are capable of generating funds ? They have

generated funds since their nationalisation. In the Fourth Five Year Plan they generated even more than the targeted amount. The target was Rs. 8,000 crore and the amount provided by L.I.C. was Rs. 12,000 crore. In the Eighth Five Year Plan it provided Rs. 33,000 crore.

The performance of G.I.C. is also not bad. In 1994-95, its settlement of claims was more than 74 per cent whereas the international standard is only 40 per cent. The settlement of claims is one of the criteria for judging the performance of L.I.C. and G.I.C. The gross profit was Rs. 1,081 crore and the net profit was Rs. 333 crore in the case of L.I.C. The growth rate of G.I.C. is 19.5 percent, much more than that of any other company of the United States of America or the United Kingdom. But the problem will be that the premium income of G.I.C. is around 1.5 billion dollars which is much less than some of the foreign companies. You see the premium income of one American company named American International Group Incorporated which is seeking to enter into the insurance sector of our country. In 1993, when the former Prime Minister visited the United States, they sought entry into the Indian insurance sector. What is the premium of this particular company of the U.S.A. ? It is as much as 20.1 billion dollars. If these companies are allowed to enter into the Indian insurance sector, then what will happen to our L.I.C. and G.I.C. ? We have the experience or competition after nationalisation also. What was the net result of competition ? This competition was allowed among the subsidiaries of G.I.C. in 1994.

We have seen the result. We have the experience of this competition, the undercutting of the premium etc.

This will happen if the foreign companies and multinational companies are allowed to enter into the insurance sector of our country. Why should we allow foreign multinational companies ? Why should we allow even private insurance companies into the insurance sector of our country ? What is the necessity ? Is there any necessity ? Will the competition lead to efficiency ? What was our experience of the pre-nationalisation period when there were as many as 245 private insurance companies ? I can quote from the speech delivered by the former Finance Minister, Shri C.D. Deshmukh while nationalising Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1956. What Shri Deshmukh said at that time is still relevant. He said:

"The nationalisation of Life Insurance will be another milestone on the road the country has chosen in order to reach its goal of a socialistic pattern of society. In the implementation of the Second Five Year Plan, it is bound to give material assistance, into the lives of millions in the rural areas, it will introduce a new sense of awareness of building for the future in the spirit of calm confidence which insurance alone can give. It is a measure conceived in a genuine spirit of service to the people. It will be for the people to respond, confound the doubters and make it a resounding success."

It is still relevant.