

appointed to settle these matters, depending upon the need, and necessary amendments may be made to gear up the law effectively.

[English]

(ii) Need to Expedite Work on Electrification and Doubling of Railway Track between Daund and Gulbarga

[Translation]

SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL (Solapur) : I am glad that Ministry of Railways is making efforts to double the rail line between Daund and Gulbarga but for the last several years this work is going on at slow speed. The progress of work is very slow. Solapur is a big station on this line. This city is important from the industrial point of view and connects the North and South to West. It is for this reason that about 50 passenger trains and over 100 goods trains are operating on this line. It is because of this aspect that some problems arise in controlling the railway traffic. The number of accidents are also on rise. It also affects the trains starting from the South and on the residents of Solapur. I request the hon'ble Minister that doubling of track and electrification work be taken up immediately.

[English]

(iii) Need to Prepare Comprehensive Development Programme for Export of Vegetables and Fruits from Saran District of Bihar

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The district of Saran in Bihar can rightly be referred as "bowl of vegetables" and the land is extremely fertile for cultivation of all sorts of vegetables and fruits like Mango, Lichi etc. The boundary of Saran district starts 28 kilometers from the State capital of Patna. However, no effort has been made to promote the cultivation, marketing or export of fruits and vegetables or processed products. I request the Minister of Commerce to prepare a comprehensive development and promotional programme through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for production, processing, marketing and export of vegetables and fruits from the district of Saran in Bihar.

(iv) Need to Provide Sufficient Funds for Promotion of Solar Energy

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : The country is passing through power and energy crisis. Even in Delhi, the capital of the country, we are all experiencing acute shortage of power.

Precious foreign exchange is also utilised on import of petro products.

Hence, there is an urgent need for taking up steps for promotion of solar energy in our country, on a war footing.

The greatest advantage is that the raw material, sun shine, is available in plenty in almost all part of the country round the year, without any cost.

I request the Union Government to consider promotion of solar energy seriously, to provide sufficient funds for achieving the speedy results and to encourage the entrepreneurs in this line by giving more and more subsidy.

(v) Need to Exempt Residents of Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir from the Payment of Income Tax

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : The residents of Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir was exempted from payment of Income Tax under Clause (26) Section 10 of Income Tax Act of 1961 with effect from the assessment year 1962 to 1988-89 on the ground of Chinese aggression on Ladakh in 1962 which resulted in stoppage of border trades between Ladakh and Tibet and Ladakh with Shinjiang (China). With the result, the business of hundreds of Ladakhi traders was totally ruined overnight and the economy of Ladakh was badly affected. Consequent to this, the Central Government had given exemption of Income Tax to Ladakh till 1989.

In the year 1989, keeping in view of continuous poor economic condition of the Ladakhi people, the Government of India declared over 95 per cent population of Ladakh as Scheduled Tribe and on the other, the then Government at the Centre imposed Income Tax on the Ladakhis. From 1989 onwards the economy of Ladakh was further adversely affected because of the militancy in the Valley as the main supply line for Ladakh was through the Kashmir Valley.

The Scheduled Tribe as defined in Clause (25) of Article 366 of the Constitution, a member of Scheduled Tribe residing in specified areas is exempted from payment of Income Tax accruing or arising to him. On the same analogy, the tribal population in many States, the North-East, Lakshdweep and Andaman & Nicobar etc. have been exempted from payment of Income Tax but not the tribals of Ladakh.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to give exemption from Income Tax to the tribal population of Ladakh with effect from the year 1989 and for a further period of five years with immediate effect.

(vi) Need to Issue New Licence for Setting up of Sugar Mill in Supaul District, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Sir, sugarcane is produced in large scale in Supaul district of Bihar. As there is not sugar mill in this area, the farmers are unable to get the remunerative prices of their crop. The licences to set up a sugar mill in Supaul have been issued much before, but the licence-holder is not taking interest in opening sugar mill in Supaul.

I therefore, request the Government to make early arrangement for opening the sugar mill in Supaul by cancelling the previous licences and issuing afresh to another competent person in the interest of the farmers.

(vii) Need to Introduce 'Inner-Line Permit' to Restrict non-tribal settlement in Tripura

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY (Tripura-West) : Tripura has been predominantly a Tribal State ruled by Tribal Maharajas till the Princely State merged with the Indian Union on 15th October, 1949. But the steady inflow of Bangalee refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan in large number, ever since the partition of the country, reduced the tribals to an insignificant minority endangering their identity as tribals. To safeguard their interests the Government of Tripura set up an Autonomous Council for Tribal compact areas under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution in 1980.

To ensure greater autonomy for said Council, the Central Government was requested by the Government of Tripura to amend the Constitution and bring the said TTAADC under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution in 1986, and it was implemented by the Parliament and the Central Government in the said year. But the infiltration of foreigners continues both in the areas under the TTAADC and outside it. Infiltration is mostly concentrated in the TTAADC areas as some vacant land is still available there. This has been endangering the tribal compactness of these areas, the entitlement of tribals to their land, their share in the development projects, their language, culture and customs.

To prevent the situation from deteriorating further, the State Government as well as the Tripura Legislative Assembly through a resolution, passed unanimously, requested the Central Government for an early introduction of "Inner-Line Permit" with a view to restricting non-tribal settlement in the TTAADC areas.

I urge upon the Government of India to consider the proposal favourably and introduce "Inner-line Permit" in TTAADC areas immediately.

(viii) Need to Build A National Highway to Dhanushkodi, Tamil Nadu

SHRIS.P. UDAYAPPAN (Ramanathapuram) : National Highway No. 49 is an important road which connects Rameswaram Island with other parts of our country. Pilgrims who visit Rameswaram desire to have a holy dip at Dhanushkodi bathing ghat also. National Highway from Mukuntharayar Chatram to Dhanushkodi is abandoned due to deposit of sand by high velocity of wind and tidal sea waves. Pilgrims coming to Rameswaram from all over India have to bear much hardship to reach Dhanushkodi due to lack of proper road facility. The fish folks of Dhanushkodi area are suffering to transport their daily catches to the marketing centre and to fetch their daily

needs from Rameshwaram and Ramanathapuram. This proposed road will also be more important from security point of view.

I request Government of India to take immediate steps to form new road to Dhanushkodi.

14.10 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS - (RAILWAYS)* 1997-98

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Now we shall take up item No. 7 - Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

Motion moved :

"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 - Demand Nos. 2 and 16."

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 Lok Sabha
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

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : We are discussing in the House that railways play an important role in the overall development of the country and also in

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.