

The Government may be aware that a major portion of Western Rajasthan, that is, about 70 per cent of the districts, was under the grip of drought in the year 1996-97 as a result of which the people of this area were badly affected.

There is no water and fodder for the cattle. There is no employment for the people of this area as a result they are migrating to Punjab and Gujarat. The main source of income for the people of this area is through cattle breeding. But due to shortage of cattle feed, a large number of cattle is dying. There is acute shortage of cereals at the Fair Price Shops of the Public Distribution System.

Sir, I request the Central Government to take immediate action to solve this acute shortage of foodgrains in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan.

- (iii) **Need to declare Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi-Sursand-Bhithamod road as a National Highway in Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the total length of National Highways in Bihar, which is the most backward state in the country, is 2118 kms. Since 1974 no approval has been accorded by the Government of India for the construction of any new National Highway in the state whereas during this period approximately one thousand kilometers have been added in the National Highway Network in the whole country. National Development Council had recommended to declare Patna-Bhithamod (bordering Nepal) road as National Highway but the Government of India has not taken any decision in this regard. After the devastating floods of 1987 the Government of India had given assurance to provide assistance for its reconstruction but it has also not been fulfilled. The Planning Commission has included this road in the 9th Five Year Plan.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to declare Patna-Hazipur-Muzzafarpur-Sitamarhi-Sursand-Bhithamod road as a National Highway in the year 1997-98 and the work on it may be started.

- (iv) **Need for early execution of gauge conversion work at New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Alipurduar Junction**

[English]

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the gauge conversion work for New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Alipurduar junction line has not yet started. It is a long standing demand of the people of the area. The economy of the Jalpaiguri fully depends on this railway

line. The scheme has already been included in the 1997-98 Railway Budget but no step has yet been taken for its implementation.

I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and take necessary steps for execution of the scheme at an early date.

- (v) **Need to reintroduce Public Health Care Scheme in the Country**

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, 'Jan Sawasthya Rakshaks' were appointed at Village level in 1977, for the development of Ayurvedic system of medicines and also for public welfare. Their services proved very useful for the primary medical care of the people. But for the last few years neither medicines are being provided to these Rakshaks nor their services are being taken. As such, these Rakshaks are facing a lot of difficulties in pulling on the livelihood and not in a position to foster their families, consequently they launched an agitation at State level in order to find out a solution to this problem as a result of which there is large scale resentment among the people.

Therefore, I urge that the genuine demands of these Rakshaks should be considered seriously and solution to this problem be found out to safeguard the interests of these Rakshaks as well as the people.

- (vi) **Need to provide more facilities at Dharagaon Railway Station, Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Parliamentary constituency Erandol (Maharashtra) has Dharagaon Railway Station. The population of this area is about 50 thousands. 25 villages are located nearby it. Thousands of people of this area travel from this station daily as a result of which rail department earns the income of thousands of rupees per day but there are inadequate facilities at this station, the people of this area have launched agitation for these facilities. The officers of railway have given assurance to provide these facilities. This railway station has the following problems :

1. At least 20 seats be reserved in passenger trains from this station.
2. Stoppage should be provided to the express trains passing through this station.
3. The level of the existing platform should be raised and it should be further extended.
4. Proper and bigger shed should be constructed for the passengers with increased capacity.

5. Potable Water facility should be provided there.
6. Residential accommodation should be provided to the railway employees.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Railway Minister, through you, that keeping in view of the above facts order be issued to provided these facilities.

13.58 hrs.

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY - *Contd.*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are still 11 hon. Members to speak. The debate has to be concluded today. Already 11 hours 7 minutes have been taken for this discussion.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South) : Mr. Chairman, take up it after lunch hour...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Shri G.M. Banatwalla to continue.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : If you indicate the time of the reply of the Home Minister, that will help hon. Members. Otherwise, somebody will raise the issue of quorum again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 11 hon. Members to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Home Minister reply at 5 o'clock?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes. I think so.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung.

14.00 hrs.

The bell has been rung. Since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned till 2.45 p.m.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Forty-Five Minutes Past Two of the Clock.

14.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifty-Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

MOTION RE: ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON DALITS IN MUMBAI, NAGPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up Item No. 8 of the List of Business. Shri G.M. Banatwalla to resume his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was stating that the act of desecration of Dr. Ambedkars statue should be condemned strongly. In regard to this incident, I would like to submit that it is a matter of shame and real culprit should be identified and dealt with sternly. It is said about such incidents that it's the handiwork of I.S.I. Whosever is involved in these incidents., We least care for them.

So far as the matter of I.S.I. is concerned, I request to the Government that a White Paper should be issued in this House highlighting the nefarious activities of I.S.I. in the country and we should be informed about the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard. I think that the entire country would support the Government in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we talk about the police firing and the people killed therein, it is said that such incidents have occurred before as well and many people were killed therein too. I was reminded that many people have been killed in such incidents and there is no doubt about it that such incidents have occurred. It is a matter of regret that today these things are mentioned for the sake of political benefit, saving their Government and State Government but today this demand is not being made that justice should be done to the departed soul of the persons killed in these incidents. I can mention a number of such incidents. I would like to mention such incident which would give you shiver. Then there comes the gory incident of genocide by police/PAC at Hashimpur in Meerut. Ten years have passed since then but the PAC responsible for the said genocide could not be punished so far. If I go in detail, my point will remain unexpressed. The question is not of police firing in Mumbai and at other places, but the question relates to the anti minorities policy adopted by Maharashtra Government and the Government's anti-Dalit and anti-minority steps, we will have to consider over it.