

(v) **Need to construct a railway bridge between Patna and Pahleja Ghat, Bihar**

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, geographically Bihar is divided into two parts North Bihar and South Bihar and because of the river Ganga, there is transportation problem North Bihar and South Bihar. Even the capital of Bihar-Patna is not properly connected with the Northern part of the state as there is no railway bridge across Ganga thereby the developmental works suffer in that part. Railway network not only helps in prosperity and development of the society but is no less important from the security point of view. Small business and industries cannot prosper because of the absence of any link between South Bihar and North Bihar and the districts of Muzaffarpur, Saran, Vaishali, East Champaran, West Champaran, Siwan, Gopalganj etc. of North Bihar are totally cut off from South Bihar.

Demand for a railway bridge between Patna and Pahleja Ghat is being made for a long time. Central Government's investigation team went there many times to select site but of no avail.

Therefore I demand from the Central Government to take steps without delay for the construction of bridge across the river Ganga between Patna and Pahleja Ghat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only approved version will go on record.

(vi) **Need to take Collective measures for improving the deteriorating conditions of Loksan tea Estate Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.**

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): I like to draw the attention of the Central Government to the fact that the Loksan Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal which had been taken over by TTCI in 1976, is on the verge of collapse.

The factory buildings are in dilapidated condition and need immediate renovation. The existing factory machineries are too old. Out of 747.56 hectares of land 399.57 hectares of land is under plantation. All the plants are very old and about 40 per cent of them have been non-functional due to old age. New plantation in the old and in the new areas is badly needed.

More than 7.4 lakhs of Provident Fund money of workers is yet to be deposited. The Workers are required to pay extra price for plucking more leaves during the scheduled period. The workers of the three other gardens managed by TTCI are getting ten per cent. Provident Fund whereas the workers of this garden are getting only eight per cent. About seventeen lakhs of gratuity money is yet to be paid to the retired workers. Scarcity of drinking water, fire-wood, deplorable condition of their dwelling Houses, have led the workers to take recourse to agitation. Immediate intervention of the Government is solicited to save the workers and the garden.

(vii) **Need to look into oil slick in the Bay of Bengal and to formulate a disaster management plan for the region.**

SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL (Joytiagar): Sir, an Associated Press despatch from Dhaka published in most of the dailies a couple of days back, first brought to the notice of Government and ecologists that an Oil slick was threatening animal and plant life in the Bay of Bengal and mangrove forests in Sunderbans, home of the famed Royal Bengal tigers and spotted deer and it was moving towards the land westwards and further. Now as per latest reports, the oil slick has hit the Sunderbans in West Bengal. This slick has ultimately broken up into patches spread over an area of 24 to 32 kilometres along the Sunderbans and drifted landwards and has become a mass of garbage and slime.

As to who was responsible for this spill is still an enigma. This needs to be investigated. The need of the hour is to save the