

(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

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flora and fauna in the Sunderbans, the home of the Bengal tiger and national park upgraded to a biosphere reserve, which had also been recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Further, when the 'thin film' of oil and slime gets caught in the mangrove forest of the estuary, the most affected will be prawns and shrimps cultivated in the brackish waters which are major foreign exchange earners. Government may urgently devise some measures to see that effects of this oil, largely a non bio-degradable substance on the flora and fauna do not remain for long.

Coming from Sunderbans, I would strongly urge that Government should formulate a disaster management plan for the Bay of Bengal region without any further delay, particularly aimed at the build-up of an infrastructure for tackling an accident of this nature.

## PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Finance Minister is here. He wants to lay the papers on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as directed by you, I place on the Table of this House an authenticated copy of the letter that I sent to Mr. Preston, President of the World Bank, on 11th November, 1991.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1353/92]

SHRIRUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): What about the second letter, Sir? (Interruptions).

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I would like to inform the House that hon. Speaker that there is no second letter. I have mentioned to the hon. Speaker that there is no second letter.

AN HON. MEMBERS : What about the reply. (Interruptions).

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Is it the same letter which has been reported in The Indian Express? (Interruptions).

15.16 hrs.

## STATUARY RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:-

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990, in respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under article 356 of the constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 3rd March, 1992."

As the House is aware, in view of the then prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, a Proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir was issued by the President on the 18th of July 1990, on the recommendation of the Governor. Earlier, on 19.1.1990 the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, assumed to himself the powers of the State Executive and Legislature placing the Legislative Assembly of the State under suspension under the provisions of Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. A month later, on 19.2.1990, the State Assembly was dissolved by the Governor, in exercise of his powers under the State Constitution.

As the law and order and security in the State of Jammu and Kashmir continued to be grim, approval of both the Houses of Parliament was obtained for continuance in force of the Proclamation dated 18th July, 1990, in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir for a further period of Six months with effect from 3.3.1991 and again from