

[Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan]

from the State Government to establish an ordnance factory and a rail coach factory is also pending. Likewise various other demands pertaining to the development of the State are also pending with the Government of India.

If the Central investment is not streamlined immediately, the State will find it difficult to meet the demands of the public. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to appoint a high power committee to go into the development proposals pertaining to Kerala State and recommend a special provision to clear the backlog within a stipulated period.

(iv) Need to declare Uttar Pradesh as 'drought affected State'

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the following matter of urgent public importance.

As there was no rainfall in Uttar Pradesh this year, the State is hit by severe drought. Water level in Agra has gone down. Crops could not be sown due to drought situation. Wherever they were sown, they are getting destroyed due to scarcity of water. Scarcity of water in reservoirs in Uttar Pradesh has caused a fall in the power generation. The Central Government on the other hand has not been providing electricity to the State from the Central Electricity Grid. Due to this, irrigation done by electrically operated wells has also not been possible. Production in factories is going down.

The Central Government has not declared Uttar Pradesh as a drought affected State. It is a matter of urgent public importance. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to declare this State as drought affected and to grant financial assistance to it alongwith ensuring power

supply and starting drought relief work... (Interruptions)...

(v) Need to ensure adequate supply of electricity, water and diesel to cope with the drought situation in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of House to the following matter of urgent public importance—

Many areas in Uttar Pradesh are experiencing drought. Crops like sugarcane and others standing in the fields are getting dried. Sowing of the best Kharif crop, paddy has been stopped, thus posing a danger of foodgrain shortage in future. Due to water scarcity fodder crops could also not be sown. Water is scarce in canals. Power cuts imposed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh have further deteriorated the situation. In rural areas, power is not being supplied even for 4-5 hours continuously due to which public as well as private tube-wells are not working. Pumps are lying unutilised due to non-availability of diesel. If this problem is not resolved immediately the lives of human beings as well as animals will be in danger. At the same time the economy of the country will be adversely affected. While drawing the attention of the august House to the above problem, I demand that immediate steps should be taken to increase power supply and to release water in canals and to make diesel available. Besides, collection of revenue should also be suspended.

(vi) Need to name Tuticorin Airport after the name of MGR

[English]

SHRI M. R. JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Tuticorin is the capital city of the newly formed Chidambaran District, named after a veteran freedom fighter in my constituency. It is also an important port city, with many textile industries and

heavy industries like SPIC. There are many export houses and one heavy water plant there. The Vagai-kulam Airport, whose construction is nearly over, and is solely constructed for Tuticorin and suburban public is yet to be inaugurated. I request the Central Government to name the airport after the late Chief Minister, M.G.R. as M.G.R. Airport and arrange for its inauguration immediately, with air linking of Tuticorin with Bangalore, Madras and Trivandrum, to make the air services economically also viable.

(vii) Need to set up Doordarshan and Akashwani centres in Santhal Pargana, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Santhal Pargana in Bihar has reached 40 lakhs. Sixty per cent of its total population belongs to Scheduled Tribes. However, no Akashwani and Doordarshan Centres have been set up there, so far.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to set up Doordarshan and Akashwani centres in the Santhal Pargana.

13.06 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1991-92—
GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(RAILWAYS), 1991-92—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we shall take up further discussion on the Railways Budget and the Demands for Grants. (Railways). Shri Udaisingh Rao Gaikwad.

SHRI UDAISINGHRAO GAIKWAD (Kolhapur): Sir, at the outset I support the Railway Budget. I shall be very brief because of time limit and shall give a few suggestions to the Railway Ministry, mostly confining to my District Kolhapur in

particular and Maharashtra in general.

Kolhapur has got historical importance followed by its predominance in agriculture and industry. Its railway station is one of the oldest stations in India and centenary celebrations had already been observed. The Kolhapur railway station requires many improvements. Firstly, adequate staff should be provided to this station. Secondly, new Platform no. 3 needs shed. It should be covered, provided. The Railways have spent about Rs. 11 to 12 lakhs on railway dispensary building at Kolhapur. It is covered by a nice compound. It is a beautiful building. But unfortunately, since the opening of the building, it is closed. For the last three or four years, no staff has been provided to this dispensary. The Medical Officer and staff comes from Miraj to Kolhapur twice a week and treat the patients. And four hundred railway families are staying there. During the emergency they have to run to Civil Hospital, Kolhapur and practically this dispensary is closed. So, I still do not know as to why so much amount is spent on this dispensary, which is not working properly. I would request the Railway Minister to see and act upon it and also provide some staff to this dispensary so that four hundred families will be benefited.

Now I come to reservations. Kolhapur is the last station from Bombay and it is very close to Konkan. Inflow of passengers between Kolhapur and Konkan is quite heavy. But there is not much reservation facility here. Only a few berths are there. The reservation quota of First Class, A.C. Class and I) Class is quite inadequate and it should be doubled.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister one more thing, i.e., change of zone. At present there is a great difficulty in having reservation, settlement of claims and movement of goods traffic because Kolhapur is attached to South Central Railway and the headquarters of which is