

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