

utilised. I request the Minister of Energy as well as the Minister of Petroleum to look into matter.

- (iii) **Need to convert Gondia-Jabalpur narrow gauge Railway line into broad gauge and to take up survey work of Chandrapur-Gondia Railway line**

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): Chandrapur-Gondia-Jabalpur is the narrow gauge railway line in Vidarbha region. There is demand for conversion of this into broad gauge.

The Government of India had informed the State Government in the past that conversion of Chandrapur-Naghibir-Gondia-Jabalpur line from narrow gauge to broad gauge is 512 k.m. Further, bases on the recommendation of Uneconomic Branch Lines Committee, 1969 a traffic survey for the conversion of the Northern Sections of the Satpura narrow gauge system (including Jabalpur-Gondia) has been undertaken and survey has since been completed. The Committee, however, did not recommend conversion of the Chandrapur-Naghibir-Gondia section the length of which is 242 Km.

It has been report that there is no proposal at present for conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia narrow gauge line in broad gauge due to constraint of resources and heavy commitment already in hand for gauge conversion works.

The Government of India is requested to convert Gondia-Jabalpur narrow gauge line into broad gauge and also to take up survey work of Chandrapur-Gondia railway line.

- (iv) **Need to open a Central University in Champaran district after the name of Mahatma Gandhi and to adopt economic development programme for Champaran on the lines of Gandhian philosophy**

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA (Bettiah): The district of Champaran and its people have played the most vital role in the life of Gandhiji who recorded that in his meeting with peasants of Champaran, he was face to face with God, Ahimsa and Truth. This district has ever since remained an object of neglect resulting in its being called 'mini Chambal' i.e. Crime *Bhumi* in place of '*Karma Bhumi*' of the Mahatma. I, therefore, request the Government of India to open a Central University in the name of Mahatma Gandhi in Champaran and to adopt comprehensive time bound economic developmental programmes on the lines of Gandhian philosophy for Champaran which has considerable tribal and harijan population.

[*Translation*]

- (v) **Need to levy excise duty on yarn instead of processed cloth with a view to save 'Art Silk' industry from Closure**

SHRI KASHIRAM CHHABILDAS RANA (Surat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to submit that Surat (Gujarat) is world-famous for its art silk industry and a large number of people earn their livelihood from it. But today, like the mills of Ahmedabad, this industry is on the verge of closure. A favourable policy should be evolved for the development of this industry and the excise duty levied on the processed cloth should be levied on the yarn, so that this industry could be saved from closure and the Government's income may also increase. I would request the Government to take immediate action in this regard.