

electricity capacity of Himachal in the Seminars organised by the State Electricity Boards in different parts of the country. The loan being given by the World Bank can be helpful for these works which is being allocated for such schemes at present. The fact is, hydro electric projects are cheaper than thermal power projects and the coal stock of our country can be used for other purposes. In my opinion, the coal stock should be reserved so that the coming generations may take full advantage of this stock. The Central Government should implement more and more hydro electric schemes. It will be helpful for nation's development, and unemployed engineers and other educated men and women will get employment in these schemes.

I demand from the Central Government that among hilly areas, more schemes for electricity generation be prepared for Himachal Pradesh and 20 thousand megawatt electricity be generated after utilising total present resources. I have also to state that a large portion of Punjab was included in Himachal Pradesh but only 2.19 percent electricity was provided to Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, crores of rupees of State Government are due. I have also to state here that all those states which owe payment to Himachal Pradesh must pay it to the state so that the same may be utilized for electricity programmes.

(iii) Need to halt mail trains at Naupada railway station, Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

DR. VISWANATHAM K. NITHI (Srikulam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Naupada lies on broad gauge railway line between Madras and Calcutta. The travelling public of Naupada and its surrounding areas in Waltair division of South Eastern railways face a lot of problems. The only two fast mail trains used to stop at Naupada till 1976.

In the year 1976, the Railways introduced a system that tickets to the passengers travelling below 200 kms. would not be issued for the convenience of long distance passengers. This has resulted in the fall in revenue at Naupada station which is on the broad gauge double railway line between Madras and Calcutta. On this ground, the mail trains ceased to stop at Naupada causing a lot of hardship to the travelling public of this area. This being the station for the revenue Divisional headquarters,

a railway junction and an importance centre, it deserves due recognition. The Express trains halt at many other places of less importance. This action on the part of the Railways had resulted in a number of agitations like rail roko, hunger strikes etc.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to ensure that all the Mail trains halt at Naupada, immediately.

(iv) Need to review the decision to supply inland letters with reduced size.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : The inland letters and postcards issued by the Postal Department are largely used for communication by the common man from the rural as well as urban parts of the country. The inland letter is preferred over post-card because it gives more writing space and also keeps the contents more confidential than the open post-card. The Ministry of Telecommunications have suddenly reduced the size of the inland letter and the quality of paper is also inferior as compared to the earlier inland letter. The writing space has been reduced from 24.5×18 cm. of the front page of old inland letter to 26.5×15 cms. of the new letter, and the back page writing space has been reduced from 11.6×18 cms. to 8.7×15 cms. The net effect is reduction of writing space from 660.60 sq. cms. to 528 sq. cms., i.e. 132.60 cms. which works out to 20%. This reduction of size is causing considerable inconvenience to the people and is also a back-door method of earning revenue without the approval of Parliament.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister for Communications to withdraw the new inland letters and supply them as per old size. For the people who have already purchased the new inland letters, the Government should refund the money at the rate of 15 paise per piece.

(v) Need for construction of a overbridge at Damoh in Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to this very important issue under Rule 377.

An overbridge on railway line at Damoh Headquarters of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned two years ago. In spite of this the construction of this overbridge is

being delayed. The traffic usually remains blocked at this railway crossing for several hours. Passengers are often harassed by anti-social elements. Such incidents are common at this place.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that an overbridge at Damoh should be constructed immediately.

(vi) Need to introduce Air-India flights on Madras-USA segment.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchemgode): Sir, though there is considerable air traffic between the USA and Madras and *vice versa*, till date there is no Air India flight to feed this segment. Due to non-availability of direct flight of Air India in this sector, the inflow of NRIs and their investment in Madras, particularly in Tamil Nadu is affected considerably.

Further, those coming from the USA to Madras and *vice versa* have to change the flight either in Bombay or in Delhi and they are the worst sufferers due to different rules followed by Air India and the Indian Airlines. Last but not the least, the non-availability of Air India on this route has enabled other foreign airways operating in this segment to earn revenue.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to introduce Air India flights on the Madras-USA segment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI
KARAMCHARIS BILL—contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House

shall now take up further consideration of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill. Out of the two hours time allotted for this Bill, 52 minutes are already over. I shall now call Shri K. D. Sultanpuri to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am standing here to support the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, which has been presented in this House.

So far as this country is concerned, since the time the Congress Party started the struggle for independence and thereafter, since 1947, the Congress Party has been making efforts to uplift the status of every class, especially the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which still continues. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and this House for taking decision to set up a commission for safai karmacharis. It is very commendable step as this commission will bring out their problems and the whole country will come to now know their plight. It is also stated clearly in that Bill that the commission who will consider this report, will submit all copies of the report in the House. This is a praiseworthy step of the Government.

People might have different opinions. Many members have stated that nothing has been done by this party upto now. But I would like to tell them that there was time when one section of people did not like to see barbers in their villages and they used to say that they did not like to be shaven by them; they were not allowed even to get water from the wells of the villages. But today the situation is different in the villages. Which party has done all this? Even today there are some people who wish that persons of SC and ST and backward classes should be kept backward. But the decision taken by this Government is well known to you and the country. Our great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajivji and Sanjayji and all our other leaders have tried their best to bring them forward without any caste discrimination. I think that whatever allegations are levelled here, they are not correct. This is done to take political advantage. This is said by those who do not have any base in villages and in the basis of