

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 karamcharis. 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 uptil 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