

It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should take some measures in this regard.

- (v) **Need to take steps to check the menace caused by lions in villages around Gir forest**

[English]

SHRI GOVINDBHAI KANJIBHAI SHEKHADA (Junagarh): Villages around Gir forest particularly villages of Talala, Una Malia, Mendarda and Visavadar Taluka of Junagadh district (Gujarat) are frequently under attack by lions of Gir forest. Since past few years these lions have become man-eaters. In the forest the ecological balance has destroyed to a large extent due to deforestation. Due to deforestation the animals like bisons, zebras and other animals which are herbivorous have drastically come down, leading to non-availability of food for lions. Lions, in order to survive have started venturing out of the forest land and are now frequently attacking villages much outside the forest area. This is a very alarming development and people in the above mentioned areas are constantly living in an atmosphere of fear and death.

In view of the above situation I suggest that the following measures should be undertaken immediately on top-priority:-

- (1) Steps should be taken to provide food to lions which will prevent them from venturing out of the forest area.
- (2) Security force should be provide to the border villages and those villages which are facing danger from lions.

Besides, afforestation, should be undertaken so that the previously destroyed ecological balance is restored in forest and

compensation be provided to villagers whose animals were killed by the lions at the prevailing market rates. The Government should increase the forest projects in the area, so that peace returns to villages and they feel safe and secure from wild animals.

- (vi) **Need to convert metre-gauge railway line between Shahganj and Mau in Uttar Pradesh into broad-gauge**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is a backward state of the country. Azamgarh, my Parliamentary constituency is the most backward district of this State. With the transfer of eastern part of Aamgarh v/z. Mau etc. from Azamgarh, it has turned into a no industry district. It is very necessary to convert the metre gauge line into broad guage line from Shahganj to mau for the industrial development and smooth traffic movement in the district. Five hon. Members of Parliament coming from this district are required to cover an additional distance of 150 kilometres by other means of transport so as to catch the broadgauge line to reach Delhi. It takes at least one and half days to reach Delhi from this area.

I as well as other hon. Members have time and again drawn the attention of the Government and personally contacted the Ministers concerned for the conversion of the metre gauge line from Shahganj to Mau. Even after getting assurance we do not notice any progress in the work. There is great resentment in the people for not converting the line into broadgauge.

I would like to request the Government to make an announcement in this Budget session itself for the conversion of the metre gauge line from Shahganj to Mau into a broad gauge line.