

(vii) **Need for improving the lot of fishermen in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu**

*SHRI KANCI PANNEER SELVAM (Chengalpattu): Mamallapuram, Idakkazhi Nadu, Kelambakkam, Tiruporur, Madhurantakam in Chingleput Constituency in Tamil Nadu are mostly inhabited by fishermen. Their living conditions are very poor. They do not have proper houses and their families are wallowing in poverty. Their lot has to be improved by constructing low cost housing colonies to provide shelter to all fishermen. Centrally sponsored cooperative societies should be formed to lend loans to these fishermen to take to mechanised fishing. The catch should be procured by the Central Government on the spot for the purpose of export. During storms and rainy season, when fishermen could not venture into sea, a minimum daily maintenance allowance to the families of fishermen should be provided through the Central Cooperative Societies. Their life should also be insured at subsidised premium and a mandatory compensation of Rs. 50,000 should be paid to the families of fishermen lost in the sea.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

(viii) **Need to implement National Transport Committee recommendations regarding phasing out of the Freight Equalisation Scheme**

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): As the House is aware, the National Transport Committee, headed by Shri V. D. Pande, examined all aspects of the Freight Equalisation Scheme and presented its report in August, 1980.

The Committee expressed the view that the Scheme introduced in 1954, had not succeeded in bringing out dispersal of industrial growth. On the contrary, the Freight Equalisation Scheme specially on Iron and

Steel has deprived the steel producing States of the locational advantages and resulted in industrial stagnation. This stagnation has, as a consequence, stunted the industrial growth in the States of Eastern and North Eastern region.

The Government accepted in principle the recommendations of Pande Committee to gradually phase out the existing freight equalisation in respect of steel and cement subject to subsidisation of transport for remote, inaccessible and isolated areas.

The matter has been raised in both Houses of Parliament on several occasions. The Government gave assurances in 1985 and also in 1987 for implementing the recommendation of the Pande Committee. As these assurances remain even now unimplemented, I urge upon the Government to implement it without further delay.

13.02 hrs.

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[English]

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I was making a plea yesterday for according special status and dignity to our Defence personnel. I would not like to go into the details regarding the irritants that are agitating the minds of the people in our Defence Services. The Government is very well aware of it. As you know, the Defence personnel cannot directly approach the Government to place their grievances before it. It can only be done through Ex-Servicemen's Associations which, I am afraid, are not very well organised in our country, or their feelings can be expressed by people's representatives in this august