

railway traffic in that line. Krishnagar and Beharampur are the district headquarters of Nadia and Murshidabad respectively and are of very great historical importance and cultural inheritance.

I would request the Railway Minister to take up the coupling of the Railway line in the Ranaghat-Lalgola section immediately.

**(iv) Need for steps to prevent the recurrence of incidents take Chlorine gas leakage in the Standard Alkali factory on Thane-Belapur strip**

SHRI VIDYADHAR GOKHALE (Bombay North Central): On the 3rd April, 1990, at about 8 P.M. the terrible Chlorine-gas-leakage took place in the 'STANDARD ALKALI' factory (in Thane-Belapur strip which caused suffocation and vomiting etc. to hundreds of persons.

On 25th March 1990, the concerned Chlorine-gas-cylinders were okayed by experts of the so-called 'Disaster-prevention-plan'. This plan prepared by the Committee, comprising of the top officials of 'Nocil' and 'Standard Alkali' etc. has proved useless. Many people were hospitalised as a result of gas leakage. It may also be recalled that on 21st October last, eight employees of the above-mentioned company were injured due to leakage of sulphuric-acid.

I would, therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

**(v) Need to ensure the upgradation of slum areas of Nagpur city not affected due to forest law regarding 'Zhudpi Jungle'**

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Sir, there is tremendous resentment amongst the slum dwellers of Nagpur city because most of the schemes for upgradation of slums are not being implemented because of instructions from Forest Department of Government of India. I would like to

inform the House that about 6 lakh people live in slums in Nagpur alone. They are staying there for the last 25-30 years. Slum improvement schemes under 20 Point programme have already been implemented. As per the revised scheme it is now high time that these people should be helped with upgraded schemes, but the Forest law regarding 'Zhudpi' jungle is coming in the way for clearance. The areas in the limit of Municipal Corporation of Nagpur where there are thousands of hutments and not even a single tree is being termed as "Zhudpi Jungle".

I earnestly request the Minister of Environment and Forests to send a high level team to see that this major hurdle which is coming in the way of settling these slum dwellers is removed. The land which comes under Municipal Corporation limit of the city of Nagpur should be declared free from "Zhudpi Jungle".

**(vi) Need to float debentures for various railway projects in Marathwada, Maharashtra**

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): Sir, I welcome the announcement made by the esteemed Railway Minister, at Bombay that the Maharashtra Government has been allowed to float debentures to complete railway projects in Maharashtra. Marathwada is a very backward region of Maharashtra. The approved Manwad-Aurangabad-Mudkhed-Adilabad broad gauge conversion has not been completed although the work was started in 1977. In Marathwada there has been demand and agitation for the following additional railway projects:—

- (1) Conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi-Miraj narrow gauge into broad gauge.
- (2) Latur-Lature road as a new small broad gauge line.
- (3) Parli-Bead-Ahmednagar as a new broad gauge line.

Unless these railway lines are provided,

[Dr. Venkatesh Kabde]

industrial and other development of Marathwada is not possible. Therefore, it is requested that debentures may be floated not only for Manmad-Adilabad line as proposed by the Railway Minister but for all the above stated railway lines.

[Translation]

- (vii) **Need for payment of Hill compensatory allowance to Central Government and Public undertakings' Employees posted in Himachal Pradesh**

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is great resentment among the employees of Central Government and Public Undertakings posted in Himachal Pradesh for non-payment of Hill Compensatory Allowance on the pattern of State Government, since the employees working in Central Government offices and Public undertakings in other states such as Sikkim and Rajasthan are enjoying such benefits on the pattern of the State Government they are getting H.C.A. in Sikkim and Border Allowance in Rajasthan.

In this regard, several organisations of these employees working in Himachal Pradesh have expressed their resentment in the meetings organised by them and through various other means that being the hill area, they have to spend much more on the maintenance of their families.

Generally it has been observed till now that it were the State Government's employees asking for the pay and allowances on the pattern of Central Government, but in this case Central Government employees are asking for payment of allowances on the pattern of State Government.

Keeping in view the above, I urge the Government to grant H.C.A. immediately to the employees of Central Government and public undertakings posted in Himachal on the pattern of Himachal Government, so that

the prevailing resentment among the employees could be removed.

12.50 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),  
1990-91

Ministry of Industry—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Industry.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, the Minister of Industry will reply at 4 o'clock and we can take the vote immediately thereafter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have time for 1 O'Clock till 4.30 PM.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The hon. Minister would reply at 4.30 PM.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes. Now Shri M. Arunachalam will speak.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM (Tenkasi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Let me begin as a former Member of the Council of Ministers who looked after Industry Ministry by wishing Shri Ajit Singh well in his assignment. He has an excellent foundation to build on. The question is, will he be able to? before I comment on it based on whatever little has been done by him during the last four months, let me take this opportunity to mention a few points.

As the Annual Administrative Report for 1989-90 asserts, industrial growth in the first four years of the Plan exceeded Plan targets. 1989-90 saw in the first four months some signs of sluggishness. Our efforts to put the growth back on the rapid growth path