

Narrow Gauge railway line under Kharagpur division of S.E Railway was constructed about a century back and has been functioning without any improvements in it, even though this area has been developed after establishment of many industries and discovery of mineral products as well as tremendous increase of population. After several demands from various corners, the S.E Railway authorities have conducted a survey of its conversion into Broad Gauge railway line and declared it non remunerative which has disappointed the users. It is learnt from some reliable sources that the, experts while conducting the survey did not take note of the newly established industries and some such industries which are under construction as well as the mineral products and forest of this area. Had these been taken into consideration the project would have been very remunerative especially when the latest proposal was to connect it with the broad gauge railway line near Gorumahisani, which is connecting Howrah-Bombay railway line at Tata Nagar.

On the basis of such a wrong survey conducted by the railway authorities, I would very humbly request the hon. Railway Minister kindly to issue necessary orders to conduct re-survey of this narrow gauge Rupsa-Bangiriposi railway line keeping in view the need to connect it with the broad gauge line near Gorumahisani. Necessary action may please be taken at the Railway Ministry level for its conversion into broad gauge railway line in the first year of Seventh Plan period which will fulfil long cherished demand of this backward tribal area.

(ii) Funds for Modernisation of Orissa Cotton Mills

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): Sir, the Orissa Cotton Mill, Jagatpur, Cuttack, is facing serious financial crises. As per the second phase of sanctioned modernisation programme the mill has to run 25,000 spindles out of which 17,148 spindles have been installed and 8,000 spindles are yet to be installed. The mill has received

materials worth Rs. 128.32 lakhs and the balance of Rs. 50.63 lakhs which has to be provided for machinery, electrical equipment, humidification and buildings, etc., has not been given by National Textile Corporation so far.

The working capital of the mill at present is approximately Rs. 15 lakhs whereas the unit requires a working capital of Rs. 178.95 lakhs. Hence, it is very difficult to run the mill with this meagre amount of working capital. The mill is remaining idle with 17,148 spindles at present.

As part of its modernisation programme, a housing project for the mill was proposed to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 39.42 lakhs. The HUDCO has to bear Rs. 27.50 lakhs and the balance of Rs. 11.92 lakhs is to be provided by the N.T.C. But the aforesaid amount has not been given to the mill so far.

If the mill is funded adequately, it can provide employment to more than 1000 local people. So, it is necessary that the working capital is increased to the tune of Rs.1 crore. At the same time, the Central Government should provide adequate funds for implementing the second phase of the sanctioned modernisation programme of Orissa Cotton mill forthwith.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to Check Illegal Mining of Coal in Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh)

SHRI DALBIR SINGH (Shahdol): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there have been serious instances to show that illegal mining and pilferage of coal have started again in Sohagpur Collieries under the W.C.L. in my constituency of Shahdol. I have received a report that the General Manager of the Sohagpur area was fatally attacked on 4.1.1985 by the gang involved in pilferage of coal, when he went there for a surprise check. A report to this effect was lodged in the police station.

[Shri Dalbir Singh]

I have also been told that after having grabbed the land near the explosives magazine belonging to Budhar group of Mines, coal depots were set up there and a number of illegal coal depots have already been set up near Budhar, Amlai, Dhanpuri, Rungta and Chachai collieries

There are large deposits of coal in this district, where coal is not extracted by the W.C.L. Illegal mining of coal is also taking place there. As a result thereof, Government is suffering a great loss and illegal business is continuously flourishing there. This has caused danger not only to law and order situation of the district but also the peace of the area. Due attention should be paid to this serious situation.

(iv) Need to clear the Irrigation Part of the Kuriar Kutty-Karappara Project in Kerala

****SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN** (Palghat); The Kuriar Kutty-Karappara multi-purpose project was conceived for saving the drought-prone areas of Malabar by ensuring perennial water supply and solving to a great extent the crippling power shortage in this area. However, like many other project, this too got entangled in ecological and other technical problems. Thus, after many years of its conception, the chances of its materialising are as uncertain as ever. This project has been shuttling between the Centre and Kerala for too long. This uncertainty should be put an end to; if due to ecological problems the power generating part of this project cannot be sanctioned, the irrigation part may be sanctioned without any further delay. If this part is completed, a large segment of Chittur taluk could be irrigated. At present there is an acute shortage of even drinking water in this area. Agriculture is the only means of livelihood of both the farmers and the agricultural labourers. Due to scarcity of water, agricultural opera-

**** The speech was reginally delivered in Malayalam.**

tions in this area have suffered. The farmers are in distress and the poor agricultural labourers are out of employment.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take a quick decision to clear the irrigation part of the Kuriar Kutty-Karappara Project.

[English]

(v) Delay in issuing Visa by Pakistan Embassy

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): The people of Jammu and Kashmir face a lot of difficulty in obtaining visas for Pakistan. People drawn from far-flung areas of Karnah, Keran Gurez, Tulail, Uri and other areas have to come all the way to Delhi and camp here for works to obtain visa. It is often that they return to their homes empty-handed. The visa office at Srinagar which had been set up a number of years ago is defunct. Even visa forms are not available there. Genuine passport-holders who want to visit Pakistan urgently get stranded. There is no difficulty in getting the cases cleared through the agencies concerned within our country, but there are inordinate delays in getting visa. I wish the Ministry of External Affairs revitalises the Passport Office at Srinagar.

I would also suggest that the Pakistan Government may be requested to streamline the system of issuing visas by its embassy in India so that the delays are obioated.

[Translation]

(vi) Steps to save Yamuna Water in Delhi from being Polluted by Industrial Wastes and Sewage

SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am drawing your attention to the following subject under Rule 377,