

[Sh. Satyagopal Misra]

serious problem for the transportation of betel baskets. Railways have also restricted the booking of betel baskets at Howrah station which has resulted in deterioration of the situation. The betel leaves growers under the banner of "West Bengal Pan Chesha Samiti" have organised themselves for demonstration at Howrah station on 10-8-1990.

I, therefore, urge upon the Railway Ministry to withdraw the restriction of booking of betel baskets at Howrah station. I also demand the regular supply of empty parcel vans in different trains at Macheda and Panskura stations in South Eastern Railways.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I fully support him. Both the places are in our constituencies.

[Translation]

(vii) **Need to convert Shahgunj-Mahu metre gauge railway line into broad gauge**

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, U.P. is a backward State of the country. Azamgarh is the most backward district of eastern U.P. For the industrial development of this district and for providing a means of transportation, the Shahgunj-Mahu metre gauge line should be converted into broad-gauge line. Many agitations have taken place for this. Speaking at a development conference in Azamgarh, the hon. Railway Minister Shri George Fernandes mentioned the conversion of the metre-gauge line into broad-gauge line. The five M.Ps from Azamgarh district have to first cover a distance of 150 kilometres before connecting with the broad-gauge line to Delhi. There is great resentment among local people due to the non-conversion of this metre-gauge line into broad-gauge line. In view of the public interest I request the Government to take immediate steps to convert the Shahgunj-Mahu metre gauge line into broad gauge line.

(viii) **Need to fix the support-price of apple and other fruits produced in Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a fruit-growing State. Other crops are grown in less quantity. In the remote hilly areas of the State apples are grown in large quantities. Vegetables and potato seed is also grown. Local farmers have grown fruit trees to prevent land erosion. The State's produce benefits the people of this country and this in turn strengthens the economic condition of the farmers.

In other parts of Himachal Pradesh like Solan, Sirmour, Kangra, Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur people earn their livelihood by growing 'galgal', lemon, pear and off season vegetable crops. As it is a hilly area, crops like that of wheat cannot be grown there and the cash crops are fruits and vegetables. The previous Government had fixed the support price of apple at Rs. 2.75. That Government used to give support price in respect of galgal, kinoo, orange, honey, chilgoza and ginger. But the present Government has not made any declaration so far to give support price to farmers.

In view of these circumstances I request the Government to fix support price of apples at Rs. 5/-. Support price for other crops should also be fixed and necessary instructions should be issued to the State Government regarding its implementation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record.

15.10 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
BILL-CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up further discussion on the National Commission for Women Bill. I call upon Shri