

[Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena]

copper and Panna mines are also there in Karoli area. High grade lime stone which is used for making cement is also found there in abundance. This will promote growth of industry to a great extent. The trade of beetle and Tendu leaves which are found there will also increase. Places like Timangarh and Kailadevi which are of historical importance and have scenic beauty can be made accessible for the tourists.

In 1956 the then Railway Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given an assurance to complete this project during the Second Five Year Plan. Keeping in view the fully favourable conditions and also with a view to facilitate development of backward and rural areas, I demand that Karoli should be linked with Dhaulpur and Gangapur by railway line so that while solving many problems connected with this area, industrial development could also take place in a big way. Therefore, in the interest of the Government as well as in the public interest, it is absolutely essential to link Karoli with a railway line.

[English]

- (v) **Need to review the decision of ECL to close down six mines in West Bengal**

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol): A grave situation has arisen because of the decision of ECL, a subsidiary of CIL, to close down six mines in West Bengal, by transferring workmen to other mines and ignoring the strong protest from Central Trade Union. Since 1987, ECL has already closed down 9 mines in this fashion. This action of the ECL will not only deprive the nation thousand million tonnes of its valuable rich coal reserve worth thousands of crores of rupees but at the same time, large scale gas, fire and subsidence will affect the lives and property in this area as safety measures or sand stowing in a scientific method has been fully neglected. In Raniganj coal belt nearly 100 villages/towns have been declared

unsafe due to the slaughter and unscientific mining operations.

I would request the Minister to intervene in the matter and advise the ECL not to pursue the proposal in the interest of the nation.

[Translation]

- (vi) **Need to provide financial assistance to Bihar for the development of Bhojpur district under Sidhartha Development Scheme**

SHRI TEJ NARAIN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bhojpur district is backward so far as economic development is concerned. Under the Siddharth Development Scheme of the Central Government it was proposed to develop only 10 out of the 19 blocks of Bhojpur district, but the condition of all the blocks is still pathetic.

Therefore, I request the Government to provide adequate funds to the State Government under the Siddharth Development Scheme to facilitate all round development of all the blocks of Bhojpur district.

[English]

- (vii) **Need to settle claims of refugees settled in various parts of J.K.**

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): A large number of refugees from Pak occupied areas of J&K State migrated During the wars of 1947, 1965 and 1971 and settled in the districts of Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Kathna and Doda, but their claims have not been settled so far. The Government promised to pay a sum of rupees twenty five thousand to each family as a lumpsum to settle their claims but so far, no money has been paid to them. The petition Committee of the Parliament after studying their problem, have also recommended for the settlement of their problems.