

[Shri D. L. Baitha]

This section not only connects the far off areas of Bihar, on the Border of Nepal with the other parts of the country, but it is the only gateway to Nepal. This line is the direct, easy and the shortest route from Nepal to Calcutta post. In addition the railways need to convert this line into broad-gauge on economic grounds also. For journey or for sending goods to Calcutta, Gorakhpur, Patna, Delhi etc. transshipment is required at Katihar because after Katihar there is a broad gauge line. Therefore, this not only causes delay in the transportation of goods, but the transshipment costs more and the goods are also damaged. Moreover, you will have to spend more on construction work for making proper arrangements for transshipment at Katihar.

A survey of the present Katihar-Jogbani sector has already been conducted and the Railway officers with a view to provide security, long about and development of trade and improvement in passenger facilities have strongly recommended its conversion into a broad-gauge line. I would, therefore, like to urge the government that the Jogbani-Katihar section (North-Eastern Frontier Railway) should be converted into broad-gauge at the earliest.

[English]

(iii) Need to increase the procurement price of iron-ore procured by M.M.T.C. from Hospet in Bellari District

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): I wish to draw attention to the grievances of the iron ore mine owners and suppliers from Hospet in Railway District.

Two sector is contributing five million tonnes of all grades of iron-ore for export, out of which the million tonnes is supplied by the private mine owners of the area and the rest by

N.M.D.C. Therefore, the mining industry is an export-oriented industry. There are 76 mining leases in the area and two million tonnes are produced by employing both men and machines. 25,000 direct and 25,000 indirect labourers are employed. It is a matter of regret that M.M.T.C. of India which is the sole purchaser of the entire ore, is not meeting the minimum demands of the mine-owners. In fact, during the year 1983, the M.M.T.C. reduced the procurement price by one per cent whereas it paid higher price towards port charges, railway freight, etc. The ore is purchased at a very low price of Rs. 60 a tonne, whereas it is purchasing at Rs. 100 from N.M.D.C. The industry is in a crisis and the economy of the district is jeopardised. I request that immediate relief to be provided by declaring suitable increase in the procurement price of iron-ore by the M.M.T.C.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to arrange Halt of Express trains at Habibganj near Bhopal

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, due to non-stoppage of express trains at Habibganj railway station, about three lakh people of T. T. Nagar and BHEL region of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh who have come there from different parts of the country are facing serious difficulties.

They have to go to and come from Bhopal railway station which is at a distance of 8 to 15 kms. A lot of money has to be spent on auto-rickshaw and taxi, and during nights often no transport is available for going to or coming from Bhopal. For outgoing journey, the passengers have to reach the railway station hours before. Similarly after alighting from night trains, the passengers are forced to stay at the station for the night.

Due to this reason, there is heavy rush at the Bhopal Station. Because

of the lack of the above facility, large scale chain-pulling is resorted to. Consequently, the trains are delayed.

The importance of Habibganj railway station has been increasing continuously. The increase in population has been taking place mostly in this area. The station suits the people best for going to Hoshangabad and the industrial township of Mandideep.

I would, there, request the hon. Railway Minister that he should make arrangements for a two-minute stoppage of at least Chhatisgarh Express and Dakhni Express at Habibganj Railway Station.

[English]

- (v) Need to reinstate the workers of Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited at Gorubathan in Darjeeling District

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, a serious situation has arisen since the retrenchment of 34 workers by the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (a Government of India undertaking) at Gorubathan, in the district of Darjeeling. They were duly appointed in 1981 and were undertaking all the works as desired by the Corporation. They had been given all the benefits of a regular employee including Employees' Provident Fund. They were allowed to continue in service even after the expiry of 230 days—a qualifying period for their regularisation.

The retrenched workers are protesting against this unjustified retrenchment.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to look into the matter and settle the dispute by reinstating the retrenched workers immediately before the situation goes from bad to worse.

[Translation]

- (vi) Need to take steps to remove the shortage of one rupee notes and small coins

SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH (Mabarajganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker,

Sir, there is acute shortage of one rupee notes and small coins in the country. It is causing lot of difficulties to the common man. In buying tickets in buses and in retail purchasing, the consumers have to leave the balance amount due to him after paying for the commodity or in case the consumer is not prepared to for go the change, he cannot purchase the goods. The traders are taking undue advantage of this shortage. Government should take immediate steps to remove this shortage and to protect the common man from this exploitation.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly make a statement in this respect

15.54 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DIS-
APPROVAL OF TEA COMPANIES
(ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER
OF SICK TEA UNITS)
ORDINANCE, 1985

AND

TEA COMPANIES (ACQUISITION
AND TRANSFER OF SICK TEA
UNITS) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up items No. 9 and No. 10 together. Two hours are allotted for these two items. I will request Prof. Soz to move the Resolution. Since he is not here, I will request Shri Kabuli to move the Resolution and speak on it.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar): Sir, I move the following Resolution:

“This House disapproves of the Tea Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Sick Tea Units) Ordinance, 1985 (Ordinance No. 3 of 1985) promulgated by the President on the 8th April, 1985.”