

attention of the Hon. Labour Minister towards agricultural labourers. There are lakhs of agricultural labourers whose condition is very pitiable. They have neither houses to live in nor they get fully work throughout the year. They get very meagre wages and they have to pass their old age with great difficulty. Even their family members do not take care of them in the old age. At that time their condition becomes very pitiable.

I would, therefore, like to request the Government that arrangement should be made to pay old age pension or some allowance to the old and helpless agricultural labourers so that they do not face starvation in their remaining life and they are able to live peacefully.

- (v) Need to improve transport facilities in Madhya Pradesh to accelerate the economic development of the State

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Madhya Pradesh is the largest State in the country, but the progress made by the State in the matter of communication and transport facilities has been less than the national average. The progress made in the field of railway facilities or the development of roads and air services is not satisfactory. Therefore, there should be expansion of railway lines in the far-flung areas of the State especially, in the tribal districts of Jhabua and Bastar. The State Government has sent proposals for 6 new national highways to the Central Government and the Centre should accord its approval to them expeditiously. We have been demanding for many years that Boeing Air Service should be introduced on Delhi Bhopal-Nagpur and Bombay Aurangabad-Bhopal-Jaipur-New Delhi routes and Bilaspur and Bastar be linked with Bhopal by Vayudoot services.

I would like to submit that by according approval to these schemes, the pace of development of Madhya Pradesh will be accelerated and national income would also go up due to growth in tourist traffic.

[English]

- (vi) Need to amend the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules and set up one man standing tribunals for settling accident claims

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Chengalpattu) : During the recent past, there have been a number of accidents in Railways and a large number of human lives are being lost, as well as resulting in acute injuries. It may be recalled that the Railway Convention Committee have made some recommendations with regard to the payment of compensation to the victims of the accidents. It has been noticed that the amount of compensation being paid is much delayed and the claims are not settled in time. The Railway Convention Committee have recommended to constitute a one-man claim tribunal to deal with accident claims without further delay. Recently, there was a major accident in Ariyalur, Southern Railway and a lot of hardships and sufferings have been caused to a number of people including the families of the deceased. It is imperative that the Central Government should take immediate steps to amend the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules which were enacted as early as 1950. One-man Standing Tribunals for settling the claims must be constituted on priority basis. This will help redress the sufferings of the accident victims.

- (vii) Need to ensure that the L.P.G. meant for domestic use is not diverted to commercial use by the dealers for monetary gains

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : The Government's decision to raise the price of LPG for commercial purposes may be justified but it poses some unforeseen risks to domestic consumers. As the price between domestic and commercial use differs so widely, there will be greater temptation on the part of LPG distributors to divert LPG meant for domestic users to commercial users. Also, there would be less interest on the part of dealers to supply domestic consumers who would be compelled to wait for a number of days to get the refills. The Government must, therefore, ask each dealer