

[Shri Jagdish Awasthi]

I, therefore, request the Government that as a first step towards progress of education, a Navodaya Vidyalaya may be opened in Kanpur-Dehat district before the ensuing academic session so that adequate arrangements may be made for the education of those talented children who belong to the poor and middle class families of that area to enable them to contribute their mights progress and development of the country in future.

[English]

(V) Demand for Continuing the Crop Insurance Scheme

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vjiayawada) : Millions of farmers in the country are very much perturbed at the reported news "Centre backing out of Plan" which appeared in Indian Express dated March 17, 1988. Contrary to the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, Farmers' interests were not adequately taken care of by the successive Governments. So the economic condition of the Kisans has not improved to the extent that it should have been when compared to other segments in the society. After 38 years of independence, Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced to cover rice, wheat, millets, pulses and oil seeds. This Insurance Scheme though not to the full extent, at least partly comes to the rescue of the farmer when his insured crop is lost due to seasonal conditions or floods, or pests etc. If the Government abandon the Crop Insurance Scheme it will be a clear anti-peasant measure. So I suggest to the Union Government not to give up the Crop Insurance Scheme but make it more effective by bringing tobacco, cotton, chillis etc. also under its coverage and treat a revenue village as defined area instead of taluk/block/Mandal to protect the genuine interests of the farmers in distress. To make the scheme viable and more meaningful, the premium may be enhanced slightly. Scope for misutilisation be removed to make the Scheme pucca and effective.

[Translation]

(vi) Demand for bridges between Pahleja Ghat and Deegha and a Rail Bridge at Chhitoni Ghat

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

Bihar is the largest minerals producing and the second highest populated State of India. But it is backward in the field rail traffic also as in other fields. Whenever, the request is made to remove this backwardness or any project is prepared, the same is rejected on the plea of non-availability of funds or being not viable. I have requested several times giving facts in detail in this august House to construct a railway bridge over Ganga between Pahaliya Ghat and Deegha pending since long and also constitute a Railway Zone in Bihar. But the Ministry of Railways has not taken any concrete step in this respect.

It is nothing but irony of fate that the headquarters of 9 out of 39 districts have been deprived of rail facilities upto now. Several schemes relating to New Railway line, double line, conversion of gauge and construction of bridges have not been approved so far.

It is also noteworthy that several years before foundation stone of some of these schemes had been laid and construction work had also been started on them.

It was expected that funds would be made available in Rail Budget of this year for new projects of Bihar but it is distressing that not even a single penny has been allocated in respect of Bihar for this purpose.

Therefore, Government is requested to arrange to get a railway bridge between Pahleja Ghat and Deegha, a railway bridge on Chhitoni, a new railway line, double line constructed and work on conversion of gauge may be undertaken and also constitute a Railway Zone in Bihar.

(vi) Demand for financial assistance to Bihar Government for providing drinking water in Purnea District

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of my constituency, Purnea have to face lot of difficulties in getting drinking water whereas our Hon. Prime Minister is anxious to help in every possible manner for making the drinking water available. One can realise actual difficulties in getting drinking water particularly to Harjais if one goes to the rural areas. I would like to request the Government to consult Bihar Government and grant financial assistance