

It has a University, a very important centre of Defence Department and a big business centre. Many cement factories are also situated in Damoh. But in the absence of direct fast trains for Bombay, Calcutta and Ahmedabad, the people of this place have to go to Bina or Katni to catch the trains for these cities. Many a times the passengers miss the trains and as a result they have to face lot of inconvenience.

Therefore, two fast trains may be introduced. One between Banaras and Bombay via Allahabad, Katni, Bina, Bhopal, Itarasi and another between Allahabad and Ahmedabad via Katni, Bina and Kota.

[English]

- (vi) Need to accept the recommendations of Fourth Pay Commission regarding grant of ex-gratia payment to CPF retirees

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I draw the attention of the House to the plight of these retired employees of the railways who had retired on Provident Fund terms and could not exercise option to pension scheme.

These handful of retired employees were happy to learn that the IVth Pay Commission had recommended grant of Ex-gratia payment of Rs 300/- per month to all CPF retirees whose basic pay was below Rs. 500, payment of 50 per cent of the above mentioned ex-gratia amount to widows of CPF retirees and another chance for option to pension scheme to such retirees.

But these retired employees are worried because so far Government have not announced acceptance of the above recommendations. I am receiving many anxious enquiries from these retired employees about Government's decisions on the recommendations of the commission relating to CPF retirees.

I may mention here that the number of PF retirees is decreasing due to death etc. I therefore urge upon the Government to immediately issue orders for grant of ex-gratia

amount and option to pension scheme etc. to PF retirees before it is too late to do so.

- (vii) Need to avoid discrimination in the matter of issuance of passports to the people of Punjab

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur): Sir, nearly about 35,000 Passport applications are pending in Regional Passport offices Chandigarh and Jullunder—for those who have to go to abroad either as visitors to see their relatives or for employment purposes. There are hundreds of applicants who have been offered employment with intimation to produce their passport upto certain date. But their passports are not being issued because Chandigarh police is not giving clearance to the applicants.

This practice of getting clarification is applicable only for applicants from Punjab. It is open discrimination against the people of Punjab, is very serious. The Government should immediately intervene and set things right.

- (viii) Demand for constructing a bridge over railway crossing at Thirupallyar town in Tamil Nadu

SHRI P. R. S. VENKATESAN (Cuddalore): Sir, in my constituency Cuddalore N.T., the Railway Station in Thirupapuliur is situated at the centre of the town. Thirupapuliur town is a famous pilgrim centre. There is a railway crossing in the heart of the town which has been causing lot of difficulties to the road traffic due to frequent closing of railway gates for rail traffic. Many accidents have taken place at this railway crossing. Since this railway crossing is dividing the town separating mofussil bus stand, Government hospital, markets and many villages on one side and the local residents, temples, shops, offices, etc. on the other side, people living in the town are put to lot of difficulties.

Sir, the people of the town have been demanding for many years now, construction of a bridge over this railway crossing so that traffic congestion and accidents are