

[Shri S.S. Bhoje]

and they be diverted eastwards so as to ensure regular water supply to Malegaon, Nandgaon, Chadwad and Yavla tehsils.

12.06 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A number of peoples' representatives and organisations have made an effort in this direction and they are still continuing their efforts. Besides, the Maharashtra Government has also surveyed this scheme. But in spite of the persisting demand from the people, the Government has not taken action in this respect. If the Government takes special interest in this scheme, it will solve the problem of drinking water of this drought affected area and ensure development of agriculture.

Therefore, I would request the Government of India to send a survey team for conducting a survey to divert the waters of the 'Paar' and 'Naar' rivers eastward and also provide funds therefor.

(iii) Demand for halt of Gomti Express at Tundla Junction and Stoppage of certain express/superfast trains at Firozabad and Shikohabad railway stations

SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Tundla and Shikohabad railway junctions of Agra district and the Firozabad railway station have their own importance. There is imperative need to have a halt of the Gomti Express at Tundla Junctions. We have come to know that a halt for this train has been provided at Etawah railway station while Tundla junction is more important than this railway station, because not only the trains bound for Agra and Firozabad pass through this junction but the trains for Delhi, Allahabad, Calcutta and Lucknow also pass through this junction and stop there. A lot of inconvenience is being experienced by the people in the absence of a halt at Tundla of the Gomti Express which runs during day time. Therefore, a halt of

this train at Tundla is a must in public interest. At Firozabad also, the Magadha Express halts while passing one way only. It should have a halt both ways. It is unfortunate that the halt of Assam mail and Neelachal Express have also been withdrawn. This has caused discontentment among the people. The Railway Ministry should not take such one sided action as agitates the mind of the people. They must restore the halt of Neelachal and Assam mail and provide a halt of Magadh Express on both sides. Similarly, super fast trains should also halt at Shikohabad junction for a few minutes during the day time. The Railway Ministry is requested to take these matters seriously and remove the gnevances of the people

(iv) Demand for financial assistance of Rs. ten lakhs from the Prime Minister's Relief fund to persons affected by fire in Khalilabad district of U.P. and for construction of houses for them under Indira Awas Yojna

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, during summer, incidents of fire take place in different parts of the country and the State Governments provide assistance to the affected persons at their level. A devastating fire broke out in Mehdawal and Hainsar Bazar Development Block in district Basti in U.P. It has stunned the people of the whole State. As many as 128 houses were burnt to ashes in Machhli village alone. Crops, houses and property have been reduced to ashes. At least three cattle heads and a woman were burnt to death. One shudders to think of the sight of the devastated village. The people there have no houses to live in and nothing to eat. The U.P. Government has tried to give relief to the affected people but it is negligible in view of the magnitude of the loss. The people are now facing acute problem of bread and shelter which are essential for life.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to provide special assistance of Rs. 10 lakhs from the Prime Minis-

ter's Relief Fund to give relief to these people in the hours of crisis and get special fund sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojna for providing them houses so that their problem of shelter and bread is solved

(v) Demand for handing over excavated idols to concerned religious communities, particularly the jain idols excavated in Hansi (Haryana) and Damoh (Madhya Pradesh) to Jain Community

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the idols found by the Archaeological Department during the excavation operation or in the fields or houses should be handed over to the concerned religious communities for worship and security. If these idols are not handed over to them, it will hurt their religious sentiments and create discontentment among them. The idols which are not worshipped in any community can be retained in the museum by the Archaeological department for proper maintenance. For example, some idols of Jain Tirthankar were found during excavation in Hansi in Haryana which have been placed in the Office of District Magistrate. The Jain community have made a number of requests for handing them over to the community but no satisfactory reply is being given to them.

I would request through this House that the idols should be handed over to the Jain community so that they may worship them and maintain them properly.

Similarly, the Jain idols found during excavation at Bandakpore in Damoh district (Madhya Pradesh) may be handed over to the Jain community for worship and security so as to avoid any discontentment among that community.

(vi) Demand for connecting national Highway No. 12 with National Highway No. 43 from Jabalpur to Raipur via Mandla

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Dep-

uty Speaker, Sir, the national highway No. 12 which connects Jaipur with Jabalpur should be extended upto Mandla and linked with national highway No. 43. This will benefit Mandla, Kabrdha, etc. which are predominantly tribal districts. Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh is a backward district and has 61 percent Adivasi population. But there is no national highway there as a result of which developmental works are not progressing and means of communications have not improved. It is necessary to have effective means of road communication for the progress of the district. Therefore, the Minister of Surface Transport should extend national highway No. 12 beyond Jabalpur and link it with National Highway No. 43 at Raipur via Mandla. This will provide a complete road link between Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the linking of National Highway No. 12 and National Highway No. 43 will also provide a road link between Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

[English]

(vii) Demand for looking into the activities of the Railway Employees Cooperative Group Housing Society, Delhi

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Sir, I would like to say a few words about the plight of some railway employees—most of them have retired or are going to retire from the Railways. They had registered themselves with the so-called Railway Employees' Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd, which was registered in 1972 with the fond hope of getting housing accommodation so that they could spend their retired life under some shelter peacefully. But to their dismay, till now they have not got their flats. The DDA had allotted 2 acre land to the Society in 1975 and later re-allotted one acre in June, 1978 at Pitampura, Sharda Niketan, Delhi-34 for construction of 50 units. But only part construction has been completed so far according to my information.