

[Sh. Sudarsan Das]

Karimganj Districts, part of Manipur State, Mizoram State and Tripura State. The Railway Board completed a survey long time back to construct a new B.G. Railway line from Lanka Station on the main line to Silchar in Cachar District but the construction work has not yet started. If that is done, obviously this would mitigate the plight and miseries of millions of people living in that area.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Government of India to commence the work of construction of this new line expeditiously.

[Translation]

**(iv) Need to enquire into growing irregularities in the functioning of Cooperatives in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cooperative movement is a strong pillar of our country's progress. With this objective in view, the Cooperative movement was started in our country so that helpless and poor farmers and labourers may be benefited. But with the passage of time, evils and corruption have crept in the Department of Cooperatives. Because of this poor farmers are facing difficulties. Many complaints have been received that the loans and fertilizers etc. given to the farmers and others for cultivation purposes by the Department of Cooperatives are shown more than actually given to them. At places, such serious complaints have also been made that fake loans are shown against the names of the farmers. Besides, cases have been reported where even after the payment of the loans by the farmers these are shown as outstanding against their names. All this leads to victimisation of the farmers and there have been cases where the farmers have even

been sentenced to improvement due to this reason.

I request the Central Government that a detailed enquiry should be held with regard to such cases, specially in Uttar Pradesh. There are farmers who have already re-paid their loans but amounts are being shown against their names or there are instances in which more balance has been shown than actually is due. Such things should be set right.

[English]

**(v) Need to develop Colachel Port, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Colachel harbour of Tamil Nadu has to be developed at the earliest in the interest of revival of economic activities in the locality. This is the only harbour for Tamil Nadu on the West Coast. This is an ancient historical harbour. This harbour had regular trade and commerce with foreign countries till recently. The importance of this port is at a vanishing stage. The harbour has been neglected for long and its export potentiality has retarded and consequently the people of this area suffer economically. Trade and commerce in the locality would be revived if the port is developed. There is scope for export of marine foodstuffs, fibre, coir and other products from this port as there is no other nearby port. So, I urge upon the Government to take early steps for the development of Colachel port.

**(vi) Need to provide adequate funds for the construction of bridges over rivers Khabull and Luhl**

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur): Majuli is the biggest river island in the world. It is situated only 35 km. from Lakhimpur district. Due to the absence of two bridges on

the river *Khabuli* and *Luhit* it takes about 8 to 10 hours to reach Majuli from Lakhimpur thereby causing great transportation difficulties. Due to the absence of these two bridges it has caused inconvenience to the Government in supplying relief to the flood affected people.

In order to ensure development and progress of these two areas, construction of these two bridges are very essential and urgent.

I, therefore, request the Government to give priority to this problem and allocate adequate funds for construction of these two bridges over river *Khabuli* and *Luhit*, and thereby save the people from hardships without delay.

**(vii) Need to ban contract marriages in Gujarat**

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Taking advantage of the lacunae in the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958, married men legalize their liaison with other women without fear of being prosecuted for bigamy. The only thing the man has to do, to acquire a mistress was to get registered a contract deed with a woman in any taluka or District Registrar's office. Such contracts are registered in book number four under the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

The contract deeds include statements like "Since one of the party has wife, he cannot legally marry other party with whom he has been living together. Therefore, two parties willingly enter into contract abiding to live together and look after one another." These contracts are registered under different heads like "Friendship Contract", "Upa-Patni Contract", "Maitri Karar" etc.

Government put a ban on the registration of such contracts in 1981. Still, instead of calling these contracts as above, men and

women enter into "Service Contract" by which they agree to serve one another.

Despite the ban on "Maitri Karar", there is no provision in Government order for penal action for those who enter into such a contract.

Married men give advertisements in local papers giving their economic status and inviting applications from women willing to enter into "Maitri Karar". Girls fall an easy prey to such lucrative efforts, as it is very difficult to find suitable persons for marriage, without offering huge amounts of dowry.

The Local Registration Office keeps book number four a closely-guarded secret, and the police cannot do much, except issuing warning to some people.

I, therefore, appeal to hon. Minister to take immediate measures to ban such illegal and immoral contract marriages in Gujarat State.

**(viii) Need to stop giving screening certificates to foreign films depicting sex and violence.**

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South): Sir, in order to earn valuable foreign exchange, one of the methods adopted by the Government of India was the introduction of a new scheme in October 1984, under which the Non-Resident Indians have been allowed to import foreign feature films. According to the scheme, a NRI can import a foreign feature film against the payment of Rs. 1.9 lakhs per film to National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), a public sector organisation. But, Sir, under this Scheme, out of over 475 such films for which permission was sought, about 250 have been cleared after certification by the Censor Board. But the most shocking and demoralising effect is that the whole edifice of India's age-old culture and heritage, of which any Indian is proud, is in