

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

of North Eastern Railway. Unfortunately, it is being neglected by the Union Transport Ministry. In 1977, it was bifurcated into two and a new Sonepur Division was carved out of it. It is really surprising that broad gauge trains which either stop at Samastipur Station or pass through it, are controlled by Sonepur Division. Formerly three trains used to run between Samastipur and Howrah and one from Samastipur to Delhi. All of them have been discontinued. Besides, Assam Mail which used to pass through Samastipur has also been discontinued.

A railway workshop was established at Samastipur in 1981 where more than three thousand workers were working. But gradually most of the machines were shifted to Gorakhpur. Now, even for minor repairs, engines, wagons and coaches are sent to Gorakhpur from Samastipur. This has resulted in the heavy reduction of labour force. The problem of unemployment is already acute in Mithila region. This has further accentuated it.

The developmental work under Samastipur Railway Division has also been grossly neglected. It is understood that the Union Transport Ministry is considering a proposal to lay broad gauge line parallel to metre gauge. I earnestly request the Union Transport Minister to get this project implemented expeditiously so that people in Mithila region feel relieved.

At the same time, I would request the Hon'ble Transport Minister to get the work of Sakri-Hasanpur line executed for which survey has been completed and land acquired by the Government. This project also belongs to Samastipur Railway Division.

- (iv) Demand for additional financial assistance of Rs. 13.56 crores to Madhya Pradesh Government for water supply schemes in problem villages and towns of the State.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI (Raigarh) :
In the last three decades efforts are being made to provide drinking water to every village in the States of Madhya Pradesh.

In spite of all these efforts, whenever there has been failure of rainfall, drinking water problem has been acute in many parts of Madhya Pradesh. Even in normal year in summer months drinking water problem becomes very acute in the State. Latest survey shows that about 8000 villages and 130 towns excluding 13000 problem villages where works being undertaken under the normal plan are experiencing acute water shortage. To meet the situation it is necessary to dig tube wells in 5000 villages. In the remaining 2086 villages efforts should be made to deepen the wells and where it is not possible water be transported by tankers and bullock carts. In some cities like Sagar and Ujjain water supply situation continues to be critical.

To meet the expenses for implementing water supply scheme, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had made demand for Rs. 18.28 crores from the Central Government. As against this an assistance of Rs. 486 crores has been made available in 1984-85 and 1985-86 financial year. This assistance is meagre compared to the requirement of the State to implement various water supply schemes to meet the situation. Therefore, additional Central assistance of Rs. 13.56 crores is absolutely essential.

In the circumstances stated above, I urge upon the Government of India to sanction additional funds to implement water supply schemes in the problem villages and towns.

- (v) Demand for erecting a monument in memory of the late Sibte Hasan

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sibte Hasan was an eminent scholar writer, critic and thinker of the sub-continent. As an Urdu writer known for his progressive and creative works, he is rated among the literary giants like Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Sajjad Zahir etc. who have brought luster to literature by their progressive thought and creative writings and are known throughout the world.

He had also taken part in the freedom struggle through his pen and a collection of his poems named '*Azadi-Ki-Nazmain*' (Poems of Freedom Struggle) was banned and the