

[Sh. Vijoy Kumar Yadav]

Bihar has been neglected in the matter of railways whereas rail transport is vital for removing regional imbalances in the matter of development.

The proposal for the extension of the Bakhtiarpur Rajgir railway line into Bodh Gaya and conversion of Fatwa-Islampur railway line broad gauge is pending since long.

So I request that the Fatwa-Islampur railway line be converted into broad gauge and the Bakhtiarpur-Rajgir railway line be extended upto Bodh Gaya to meet the railway traffic there.

[English]

(ix) **Demand for conversion of Miraj-Belgaum railway line into broad gauge line early**

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Conversion of Miraj-Belgaum Railway into broad gauge was scheduled to be completed up to Bangalore before 1971. But unfortunately, it has stopped at Miraj itself. This line is a hot line for Karnataka people who have to travel to Bombay and Belgaum regularly. Sir, of late this area has been developed industrially and commercially. But we have not been able to cater to the needs of the public. KALGA in Karwar District is coming up very fast as an industrial town. This is also a factor which necessitates conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge. It has been a long felt desire of this part of the country to join the mainstream of the progress of the country. As such, Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister that he should immediately take decision for conversion of Miraj-Belgaum railway into broad gauge.

[Translation]

(x) **Assault on Member by the police in Kerala on 17.11.1988**

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): My colleagues have already raised in the House the matter involving the lathi charge on me by the Kerala police at Palghat on 17 November, 1988. However, I would like to place the full facts regarding this incident before the august house.

There was a peaceful picketing in front of the Collectorate at Palghat on 17 November under my leadership. The State-wide picketing of Collectorates was organised to protest against the large scale violence and the failure of the State Government which is duty bound to maintain law and order and provide protection to the life and property of the common man.

The picketing was very peaceful throughout. I was arrested at 11.30 A.M. and my colleagues were also arrested subsequently and all of us were taken to the police station. At about 2.00 p.m. certain police officials under instructions from the SP came and took me to him.

While I was standing beside the SP on the eastern side of the Collectorate and talking to him, a few policemen rushed towards us and started besting me and my colleagues, the MLAs without any provocation or warning. It may be noted that this illegal and cruel lathi charge was made on us in the presence of the SP and that he did not do anything to stop it or dissuade the policemen. I got lathi blows on my chest, back, both arms behind my left ear and on the thumb of my left hand. Altogether I received nine blows. The wounds on my body have not yet healed. Besides me 3 MLAs and one Ex-MP and senior Congress leaders were subjected to this cruel lathi charge. Altogether about 1000 people were injured in the lathi charge.

The strangest thing about this incident is that the police beat up the MP and MLAs mercilessly without giving any warning, in

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\*Translation of the matter originally raised in Malayalam.