

[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

*Translation of the matter originally raised in Malayalam.

the presence of the SP and RDO. This attack by police on me points to a very serious issue. When the representatives of the people seek to find solution to their problems through democratic means, if the police beat them brutally it would only destroy democracy.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): I am on a point of order...[Interruptions]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow anything under rule 377.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: He should have given it under rule 357.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: For that what can I do?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: But my point of order is after this statement under rule 377 in over.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not like this.

[Translation]

(xi) Demand for ensuring equal price of cane to all cane growers in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salem-pur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the Sugar Mills are found in Uttar Pradesh and the Government of Uttar Pradesh has divided them in to three categories. For quite sometime the price of sugar-cane in Western and Central Uttar Pradesh has been more by Re. one than in Eastern U.P. which is, to my mind, not justified. Last year the difference was of 50 paise. This was an injustice to the farmers of Eastern U.P., because the recovery in Sugar Mills of Eastern U.P. for the last three years has been more than that in mills of Western and Central Uttar Pradesh. This is also true that some years ago, the recovery in mills of Western and Central U.P. used to be more than that

in mills of Eastern U.P. That is why the farmers of the Western and Central Uttar Pradesh used to get Re. one more, but during the last three years the cane-growers of Eastern U.P. have proved through hard labour, that the recovery of sugar from their cane has been more than that from the cane produced by the cane growers of Western and Central Uttar Pradesh. Even the figures of the last few years confirm that the recovery from the sugar cane produced by the farmers of Eastern U.P. has been more than that from the cane produced by the farmers of Western and Central U.P.

Now the recovery in sugar mills of Eastern U.P. is more than that in sugar mills of Western and Central Uttar Pradesh. This fact has even been acknowledged by the hon. Chief Minister of U.P. It is, therefore, quite unjustified to pay 50 paise less to the farmers of Eastern U.P.

So I request the hon. Minister to give up this discriminatory policy towards the farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh as early as possible and ensure a uniform price to all the farmers of the State.

(xii) Demand for Central Government's taking over Ramacast Limited, Motihari (Bihar)

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the land of Northern region of Bihar is very fertile and full of greenery. Valmiki Nagar adjoining Nepal is abundant in forest wealth, medicinal herbs and various plants. Devastating floods in the last few years have shattered the economy of this picturesque region. The *per-capita* income of this region is the lowest in comparison to that of other regions of the country. Due to shortage of power, thousands of cottage and small industries are lying closed. Especially the economic condition in East Champaran district is pitiable and the plight of the farmers is beyond description. It is regretful that not a single industry of Central or State level has yet been set up in this district, which was active during the freedom movement and had