

[Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta]

made substantial contribution towards it. Closure of Ramacast Limited in the private sector for the last 7-8 years has rendered hundreds of workers unemployed in the district. So I request the Central Government to take over the Ramacast Limited (Motihari) and also to direct the State Government to start, without delay, agro-based industries by keeping in mind the agricultural potential of the district for providing jobs to unemployed workers and for ameliorating the economic condition of the farmers.

(xiii) Demand for Extension of the Barhan-Etah railway line upto Farrukhabad (U.P.)

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Allahabad division of Northern Railway a branch line from the Barhan railway station on the main line near Tundla, to Etah has been laid. Since its construction in 1969, this line has been running into losses for which the railway administration is responsible as it did not conduct a proper survey at that time. Had the line been laid from Hathras or Aligarh Junction the project would have been successful. On the line from Barhan to Etah only two trains hauled by steam locomotives are run. There the movement of goods and passengers is very less because the condition of coaches is very bad. For changing the direction of locomotives, there is no shed in Etah and these locomotives have to be sent to Barhan for the same.

Etah district is backward due to lack of means of transportation. As long as the line is not extended from Etah, it will remain uneconomic. Its only solution is the extension of the railway line from Etah to Farrukhabad because the latter is connected with the broad gauge line coming from Shikohabad. This way a circle of broad gauge railway lines will come into being making it more useful for the public as well as for the Railways. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways to first get the survey work completed, before the proposal

for extension of this line is presented to the Planning Commission so that it is included in this or any future plan and budgetary provisions made for making the means of transport more convenient for the people of Etah district.

12.40 hrs.

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall go to the next item-Bills for consideration and passing.

Shri Z.R. Ansari.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration." ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong): Kindly check whether there is quorum, Sir. Or if you want to run on decorum. I have no objection. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the quorum bell be rung. Now, there is quorum. The Minister may continue.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, as the hon. Members are aware the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was passed on the initiative of our Former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi after the enormous deforestation which has occurred in our country due to various factors had been noticed. About 4.5 million hectares were lost between 1951-52 to 1979-80. The State Governments could not exercise control over such diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose.