

Guwahati. The travelling public in this land-locked region if facing a lot of problems .

I request the Central Government to address this problem with seriousness.

(ii) Need to review the policy of rural electrification, especially in U.P. and also to provide adequate funds for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA(SITAPUR) : Besides many other problems, the rural people are facing serious problem of electricity. There are several villages in the country where there is no electricity. It is bulb light is seen at any tube-well far from the village, that village is considered as electrified, while the whole village remains in deep darkness. Due to these rules of the Government, the rural people are facing the problem of rural electrification. If some village has taken the advantage of electrification after keeping aside the rules, then electricity is not supplied there and the people have to work in darkness. Even if all these things are neglected then the work of rural electrification is going on at such a mail pace that it is certain that the rural people will have to wait for long for electricity. The department employees say that due to the shortage of funds the work of electrification is lying stand still. In this way on one hand the rural people various parts of the country specially in Uttar Pradesh have to face a lot of problem due to the scarcity of electricity and on the other hand the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is unable to gear up the electrification work due to the paucity of funds.

Therefore, the Hon. Power Minister is requested to provide necessary funds to Uttar Pradesh for the electrification of the rural areas so that rural people could get full advantage of it.

(iii) Need for according early approval to coastal zone management plans of Maharashtra.

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY-NORTH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Ministry of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST had directed all the Coastal State vide its notification of 19th February, 1991 to prepare Coastal Zone Management. Now more than four years have passed but the Ministry has not approved any Coastal Zone Management Plan of any State as a result of which several local bodies like, municipal corporations district planning and development committees, district, tatuka and gram panchayats. are facing a lot of problems in carrying out developmental works in their respective areas. Therefore, it is necessary that the Coastal Zone Management Plan should be accorded early approval.

So far as Maharashtra is concerned it has submitted its Coastal Zone Management Plan in three parts. i.e. for

(1) For Bombay City and New Bombay Municipal Corporation on 17th January 1995.

(2) For Sindhudurg district, Ratnagiri district, Northern part of Thane district and Dahanu Municipal Council on 3rd March, 1995; and

(3) The State Government has sent a reminder to the Central Government for immediate clearance of Coastal Zone Management Plan for Vasai-Vihar sub-area, Meera-Bhayander Municipal Council, Thane Municipal Corporation, Kalyan Municipal Corporation, the Northern part of the Greater Bombay area and Raigarh district on 12th May, 1995, but no positive reply has been received so far.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to accord early approval to the Coastal Zone Management Plan of Maharashtra and other States.

(iv) Need for creation of a separate Uttarakhand State

SHRI MANJAY LAL (SAMASTIPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Uttarakhand region of Uttar Pradesh are spear heading their agitation under the auspices of Uttarakhand Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti for a separate State of Uttarakhand. They have been sending letters to the Hon. Members written with their blood. In view of the backwardness of the area and to gear up the administration for the development of Uttarakhand, the State Letgislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh has passed resolution twice and sent them to the Central Government for creating a separate State for Uttarakhand.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested that the Bill for creating a separate State for Uttarakhand should be passed in the present session of the Parliament itself.

[English]

(v) Need to Sanction Adequate Funds for Protecting Tamil Nadu Coastline

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY (PALANI) : I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the urgent need to give Rs. 12 Crore financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for protecting Tamil Nadu against infiltration.

Tamil Nadu coastline is a sensitive area vulnerable to infiltration by militants, terrorists and other enemies. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken commendable steps to protect the coastline of Tamil Nadu in the larger interest of the nation.

Since the resources of the State Government are limited, the Government of Tamil Nadu had sought Rs. 12 crore financial assistance from the Centre to protect the 1000 kms. long coastline of the State against infiltration. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking adequate steps to protect the coastline within its resources. But the Centre should realise the vulnerability of Tamil Nadu Coastline in order to have foolproof security arrangements. The Central Government should take serious note of the reported movements of vessels and boats of militants in the sea so that our border is as safe as now.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to provide Rs. 12 crore assistance to Tamil Nadu for protecting the coastline

(vi) Need for doubling of Railway line between Mangalore and Shornur

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (CONNANORE) : Mangalore-Madras Railway line is one of oldest railway tracks in India. Tremendous progress has been recorded in the development of railways elsewhere in the country during the 45 years after Independence. However, no improvement whatsoever has been made on the track between Shornur and Mangalore on the Mangalore-Madras route.

This stagnation has added very much to the backwardness of Malabar area consisting of six major districts of Kerala. The people of Malabar are deeply agitated over this issue. Time and again, people's representatives as also several organizations representing trade and commerce, socio-cultural organizations, local bodies, students, etc. have represented the sentiments of the people of this area before the successive Governments for doubling of the line between Mangalore and Shornur.

Consequent on persistent protests and agitations, about two years ago, the Railway administration had allocated a paltry sum for this project. But to date this amount remains unutilised for this purpose. The people understandably fear that this year also the amount will be diverted to other areas and other projects.

The proposal of the Chairman, Konkan Railway Authority, came as a ray of hope to the people of Malabar. He has offered to double the line within a year, even without financial support from the Railway administration, if he is permitted to undertake the project. However, for reasons best known to them, the Railway authorities have not given clearance to this proposal.

I earnestly request the Hon. Minister of the Railways to intervene in this matter and direct the Konkan Railway Authority to take up the doubling of Mangalore-Shornur line. Then alone, Southern States will fully get the benefit from the Konkan project.

(vii) Need to Start ICDS Projects in Earthquake Hit Satara and Sangli Districts of Maharashtra.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, the Koyana and Warna regions of Western Maharashtra are facing repeated earthquakes. There was a major earthquake in this region in 1967. Another series of four major earthquakes shattered the area between August 1993 and February 1994 rendering over 10,000 people homeless. This has driven away potential investment in industries. This area being part of the Western Ghats, is hilly one. Although it receives substantial rainfall, due to lack of storage tanks, there is no water for irrigation. There is even shortage of drinking water in summer. As a result there is

no year round work in agriculture. People have to go to Bombay in search of manual work. The worst sufferers are children.

I, therefore, request that the ICDS project be taken up in the Patan, Jawali and Mahabaleswar tahsils of Satara district and Shirala tahsil of Sangli district in Maharashtra. Although these blocks do not meet the SC/ST population criteria or the number of people living below the poverty line criteria, I request the Government to sanction these projects as a special case considering the hardship faced by the people of these hilly regions on account of repeated earthquakes.

I request the Ministry of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT to start the ICDS project in the above four blocks as a special case at the earliest.

[English]

UNION DUTIES OF EXCISE (DISTRIBUTION)
AMENDMENT BILL

AND

ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF EXCISE (GOODS OF
SPECIAL IMPORTANCE)

AMENDMENT BILL – CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now Item Nos. 12 and 13 will be taken up together for discussion. The time allotted was two hours; and we have consumed one hour and fifty five minutes. Five minutes time is left out.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it pertains to the rights of States. Therefore, the time for discussion should be extended by two hours.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, let us confine to the time provided.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The Bill appears to be a small one but in the federal system of the country, the Central Government is not providing resources to the States. It is related with the States therefore, the time should be extended.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, I am prepared to accept what Mr. Mohan Singh has said. There are some other Members from our side also who would like to participate. But, keeping in view that there are many more Bills which we have to take up for consideration and the Business of the House, I think we should try to restrict as far as possible and at the same time to accommodate the hon. Members who want to speak.