

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.