

mostly remains out of order and the facility of STD has also not been provided so far. On account of this, the residents and industrialists are facing great hardships. As the industrialists of this city can not keep them in telephonic contact with other cities, it is badly affecting their business.

Therefore, the Hon'ble Minister of communications is requested that the telephone exchange at Sahbad city of Uttar Pradesh may be converted into electronic exchange immediately and STD facility on this exchange may also be provided.

(vi) Need to lay rail line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the development of any particular area, Railways have a valuable contribution. Bihar is the most backward State of the country but the plight of North Bihar is more pitiable. There is neither any big industry nor adequate railways facilities. The distance between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi is 60 Kilometres. The Railway Board had conducted a survey in 1984 for construction of a railway line on this route. According to that survey, the cost of the above rail line was estimated to be Rs. 28.70 crores. Again, on the demand from Members of Parliament and the people, another survey was carried out in 1990-91. As per the reports received in March, 1991 the cost for completing this work was estimated to be Rs. 61.79 crores. I request the Hon'ble Railways Minister to fulfil the aspirations of the people by completing the work of above rail line at the earliest so that the

development work could start in this backward area.

(vii) Need to evolve a Central Welfare Scheme for Traditional Fishermen

[English]

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey): Sir, this is to urge upon the Government of India to set up a welfare scheme for the traditional fishermen at all India level. Even though there are State schemes they are not enough to serve the fishermen who are often on the brink of penny. I would like to submit that during the recent period the traditional fishermen are being faced with more threats. They are often the victims of natural calamities. Licences have been given to foreign companies for deep sea fishing. This will adversely affect the traditional fishermen and at the same time will destroy our fish wealth.

I would request the Central Government to see that a National Welfare Scheme is introduced to help the traditional fishermen of the country.

(viii) Need for formation of a Special Screening Committee to scrutinise the claims for pension of all participants of Goa Freedom Struggle

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, individual Satyagraha began on 18.6.1955 for the liberation of Goa from the Portugese rule. This individual Satyagraha culminated into a mass Satyagraha on 15.8.1955. The participation of the Indian nationals in the Goan Liberation movement was unmatched and indeed unique.