

The villages, Bherukhera, very near to the mines, has suffered extensively. Out of about 80 houses, practically every house has developed cracks and some of the kucha houses have collapsed thereby causing great hardships to the inhabitants of the village. The entire grazing ground for the cattle of this village has been acquired by the Hindustan Zinc authorities in their reserved mining areas. As a result the cattle of the village has no place for grazing. Recently about 8 days back due to the heavy blasting in the mines area, the High School in the village Agucha, another big village near the mines area was badly damaged. The poisonous affluent of the mill which prepares the zinc concentrate is diverted to the village nalah and many cattle after drinking the polluted poisonous water have died. The hardship of the people of the adjacent areas are increasing every day and the Hindustan Zinc Management does not care about providing any relief to the people. The people are in distress and unrest is prevailing in the area which can take shape of a very big mass upsurge and can create law and order situation.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary action to provide relief to the affected population and ask Hindustan Zinc authorities to reduce the intensity of the blasting in the mines and undertake remedial measures.

(iii) Need to enhance the charges for maintenance and repairs of Urban Links in the Country

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Sir, the funds provided by the Government of India for the maintenance of urban links at the rate of Rs. 16,000 per kilometre is quite inadequate to meet the

maintenance cost. The State Government may be permitted to undertake the widening and improvement of urban links and the cost may be reimbursed to the State. There are more than 100 kilometres of urban links/Municipal reaches in Kerala State. At present, the funds provided for the purpose, are not sufficient to meet the cost of repairing potholes and periodical surface renewals of urban links. Therefore, the existing rate of Rs. 16,000 per kilometre may be enhanced to atleast Rs. 25,000 per kilometre in the case of urban links for proper maintenance and repairs.

(iv) Need to provide more facilities at Bilaspur Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the office of Manager, Railways at Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh earns more income for the railways than any other Railway Manager's office in the country, but the facilities provided there are totally inadequate. The income can be raised by expanding facilities there. The railway platform at Bilaspur is inadequate to meet the needs of the people. It should be expanded and the Uslahpur railway station located in its vicinity should be made a terminal station so that pressure on Bilaspur Railway Station could be reduced. It will be better if trains coming from Delhi and Raipur via Katni line, are stopped at Uslahpur. The shops outside Bilaspur Railway Station should be shifted to some alternative sites.

I, therefore, would like to request the Government to do the above work immediately in the public interest.