

yield. The lake has been receiving an estimated 130 lakh tonnes of silt annually. The soil carried away by the rain water to the lake, the Magarmuk channel, the only mouth connecting to the Bay of Bengal, is narrowing everyday with the heavy sand deposits brought by northerly currents. As a result, 1.5 Sq. Km of wet lands are buried every year thus shrinking the spread area and the depth of the lake waters and finally reducing the salinity level.

Unless immediate steps are taken to draw a master plan and desilt the lake, the marine yield will further decline. The people depending on the lake will lose their only source of income in the coming years. As such, I urge the Central Government to allocate fund for some such scheme and protect Chilk lake from silting and shrinking at the earliest.

(iii) **Need to give Central University status to Allahabad University**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Allahabad University has been playing a leading role in the field of Education for the last 110 years. This University has produced great personalities in India and abroad in the field of politics, education, administration, art, music and literature. At one time the students produced by this University were holding top posts in the country but due to the paucity of resources it is constantly losing its standard. There is sharp decline in its standard of reading-studying and other educational activities which is a matter of great concern. As a result of this decline, youth of North India are lagging behind in playing an important role in various fields. The Central Government can make improvement in this reputed University by taking it in its own hand.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to give Central University status to Allahabad University to enable it like other Central Universities to play an important role in the field of education.

(iv) **Need for construction of a railway overbridge at Medukkachery in Ottappalam Parliamentary Constituency in Kerala**

[English]

SHRI S. SIVARAMAN (Ottapalam): The people of Trichur and Palakkad districts in Kerala have been demanding for a railway overbridge at Medukkachery in Ottappalam Parliamentary Constituency for quite a number of years. This area is thickly populated and a Medical College Hospital is also situated in this area. Due to high traffic, the railway overbridge is absolutely necessary in the said area. The State Government had already sent this proposal. But the work has not yet begun.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Railways to take urgent steps to start the railway overbridge as early as possible.

(v) **Need to constitute a separate Ministry for proper development of coastal areas.**

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): The coastal areas of this country are most vital to the economic development of the country. However, these areas have not been given due attention.

Even China developed her economic zones in the coastal regions as they are vital links to the outside world for trade. We find all port management inefficient and unplanned, fisheries trade underdeveloped.