

commissioned by the Central Government and the contractor after completing the work. I have drawn the attention of the Government towards this project several times during the last sessions of Parliament but no satisfactory answer has been received. The foundation stone of this project was laid by the Late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi keeping in view the extreme backwardness of this area. This project was launched so that this area could go for an all round development and hundreds of provide employment to educated unemployed youth. As well as the people of the area expect that the Central Government will fulfill the dreams of Late Shri Rajiv Ghandi with the launching of this project at the earliest.

[English]

(vi) **Need to safeguard the interests of Linguistic Minorities**

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, every linguistic group in the country which forms a majority in one or more States, forms a minority in the other State/Union Territories. In almost every State, the linguistic minorities are not receiving a fair deal in the fields of administration, education and information. The office of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities has a skeleton structure and Parliament has never discussed its annual reports. The major grievances of the linguistic minorities relate to distortion of the Three Language Formula in effect, removing the mother tongue of linguistic minorities from its scope, non-availability of schools with the mother tongue as a medium of instruction and compulsory pre-condition of proficiency in the principal language of the State for public employment as well as step-motherly treatment in the Government media including time allocation on TV and Radio and Government advertisements in newspapers.

All this needs to be looked into sympathetically so that the national consensus, so built up, is implemented and the grievances can be removed.

(vii) **Need to strengthen the Jute Industry in the Country, Particularly in West Bengal**

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to the fact that the Jute industry is facing a serious crisis. It is a fact that the major portion of this industry is located in West Bengal with 5,62 lakh hectares of land under jute and mesta cultivation, 1.5 million cultivators involved, 59 jute mills operating, 2.5 lakh workers working in these mills and many other families indirectly earning their livelihood by engaging themselves in trade, transport, storage and sale of jute and jute products. Emerging compassion from synthetic packaging materials in other countries and in India have resulted in stagnation in the jute market. The Central Government itself has drastically curtailed the purchase of B. Twill bags required for foodgrains. To save the jute industry, jute growers, workers and others, I request the Government to take the following necessary urgent measures:

- (i) to replace synthetic packaging by natural fiber materials;
 - (ii) purchase of B. Twill bags by the Central Government;
 - (iii) to strictly enforce jute packaging material Act of 1987; and
 - (iv) to provide adequate working capital to the Jute Corporation of India to ensure its operation, guarantee of purchasing Jute from Jute growers.
- (viii) **Need to introduce a new train "Kanchenjunga Express" between New Jalpaiguri and Sikkim**

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Railways are the arteries of our country, but Sikkim is one of the States which is not yet connected by railways. New Jalpaiguri is the nearest railway station for Sikkim. This station caters to the need of the whole of North Bengal, Bhutan, Nepal and Sikkim. The ever-increasing traffic has made the existing platform of New Jalpaiguri very congested. The platform should be made