

Orissa. In the past, the rulers used to pay proper attention for the preservation of forest wealth. As valuable forest species are being destroyed it has adverse impact on our environment. We have been experiencing natural calamities like drought, cyclone, flood and tornado almost every year in the areas. About 23 per cent of total population in Orissa is Scheduled Tribes who are directly affected by the Forest Acts and also by the denudation of the forest.

The tribals are being asked to leave the forests where they have been living from time immemorial and they have been forbidden to earn their livelihood from the forest under the Forest Acts. This has created serious discontentment among the tribals. On the other hand, the valuable forest species are being smuggled out by the traders and anti-social elements in the ex-State areas of Orissa. The forest guards on duty are not able to take any preventive action against them in the fear of being attacked by fire arms by them.

As such, I urge the Government of India to create Central Forest Protection Force and to post them in every State for the preservation of forests in Orissa and elsewhere in the country.

- (vi) **Need to undertake a survey for laying down an alternative rail route to reduce the heavy load of rail traffic at Mughalsarai junction of Eastern Railway**

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur): Sir, to reduce the traffic load on Mughalsarai junction on Eastern Railway some alternative should be found out. Mughalsarai is such a rail junction, through which passenger trains for almost every part of the country pass. Not only this, there is a heavy movement of goods trains also on this

route. If some accident or some technical fault takes place, then the trains of the whole of the country get affected. To face this situation an alternative must be found out. This solution can be found out by laying down an alternative rail route.

Therefore, my suggestion is that a new rail line should be laid from Dehri-on-sona or Sasaram to Dildar Nagar junction and this new rail line should be linked with the broad gauge rail line from Dildar Nagar junction to Tari Ghat. Since Chhapra-Varansi metre gauge rail line is being converted into broad gauge, a railway bridge should be constructed on the river Ganga and the broad gauge rail line from Dildar Nagar to Tari Ghat should be connected with the Chhapra-Varansi broad gauge rail line. Chhapra-Varansi rail line is being converted into broad gauge, therefore, the Government will not have to spend a pie on railway line from Gazipur to Odihar. There is a metre gauge rail line from Odihar to Jallapur. If it is also converted into broad gauge, then with minimum expenditure a new route from Dehri-on-sona or Sasaram to Dildar Nagar and from Gazipur to Jallapur via Odihar can be laid. In this way, not only the load on Mughalsarai route will be reduced but a new way of development of Western Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh can also be thrown open.

Therefore, our demand from the Central Government is that this suggestion should be thought over seriously and to reduce the load on Mughalsarai the new alternative route should be surveyed and order for its construction should be passed.

- (vii) **Need to inform in advance the Members of parliament regarding visit of Ministers to their constituencies**

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir,

[Sh. Ram Naik]

there is a healthy democratic convention that whenever Ministers visit places outside New Delhi for official work, the concerned Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha belonging to the place of visit are informed in advance. This helps to keep better liaison between the Government, the people's representatives and the people. The people through their MP's bring various problems and issues to the notice of Ministers so as to enable them to have first-hand information. It also saves time and money of the people who are otherwise require to come to New Delhi.

Since this time-honoured convention was not being followed by all concern, attention of the Prime Minister was also drawn to this. In spite of this, the convention is not being followed, thereby depriving the common people of ventilating their problems, through their MP's. This is resulting in avoidable unrest amongst the people. I, therefore, demand that all Ministers follow this time-honoured democratic convention.

16.10 hrs

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS - (GENERAL)
1992-93 Contd.

Ministry of Labour - Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Labour. Shri Guman Mal Lodha was on his feet. He has spoken for nine minutes. He may kindly continue.

[Translation]

SHRIGUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while analysing the Demand for Grant relating to Labour Ministry I pointed out to the House that unfortunately, 45 crore people in India are living below the poverty line, who do not have income of even Rs. 5 a day and out of them 20 crore people are the poorest among the poor who subsist with Rs. 2 a day. Such is the unfortunate situation in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we assess, the progress made in this regard during the previous years, we will find that the situation has worsen instead of making any progress in this regard. In 1972-73, 51.5 per cent people were below the poverty line and it was 48.3 per cent in 1977-78, 37.4 per cent in 1983-84 and 29.1 per cent in 1987-88. Without mentioning the figures of other years, I would like to State that at present 53.8 per cent population of our country is below the poverty line. It is, therefore, a matter of grave concern, and Sir, it's reason is, as stated by the Minister of Finance in his Budget-Speech in paragraph 50 at the page 15 :

[English]

"Rural Development Programme in the Budget is Rs. 2610 crores which is somewhat lower than the estimates of 1991-92".

[Translation]

The population is increasing. The condition of the people living below the poverty line is deteriorating and our hon. Minister of Finance is stating that the provisions which he is making under the next year's budget will be less than the previous ones. This paradox, plight will increase the number of people living in below poverty line and it will be degradation and not progress of India.