

there could be a Chasnala type disaster repeated in Dhanbad coalfield.

I demand a high level probe into the accident in Kachchi Balihari Colliery and a thorough survey of accumulated water underground at different levels of the mines.

(x) **Need to convert Cochin University into a Central University**

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam) : The State of Kerala has the highest literacy rate of 70 per cent and effective literacy rate works out to 90 per cent, compared with 30 per cent of all India rate. Thanks to the pioneering and missionary zeal of our forefathers.

Today the State of Kerala incurs over 57 per cent non-Plan revenue liability on social and community services. The revenue expenditure on education alone is over 47 per cent of its revenue, a huge liability on the State Exchequers.

Modern education demands further and deeper research and development of science and technology for the advancement of humanity. The State of Kerala lags very much behind in the area of advanced education. Graduate and post-graduate courses in science and technology, compared to other neighbouring States, are very few.

The University of Cochin was established in 1971 as a Science and Technology University. It imparts higher education in the vital fields of applied science, management and technology. It has already established higher national and international reputation in research and development in many fields, for example, Laser Research, Electronics, Marine Science, School of Management etc. There are rare and specialized development studies like ship technology, Polymer science, Rubber technology, Computer science, applied chemistry etc. The UGC and the Bureau of Technological Division of the Ministry Education, Government of India, have recognized these works and

extended liberal help within their limitations. Since it is not a Central University, there is a great handicap for greater assistance, development and growth. I may add that there is no Central University in the Southern States except one in Hyderabad. The University of Cochin has every infrastructure to make it as a Central University. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to take speedy steps to convert it into a Central University.

(xi) **Need for restoring the rail link between North Bengal and South Bengal disrupted by damage to bridge over the river between Barsoi and Kumedpur**

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Due to the damage caused to the bridge over the river between Barsoi and Kumedpur in West Bengal, the vital rail-link between North Bengal and the rest of West Bengal has been disrupted, causing insurmountable difficulties to the people of North Bengal, Sikkim and surrounding areas since the last fortnight. Thorough running of the Darjeeling Mail, Kanchanjunga. Now Jalpaiguri-Howrah Passenger and goods trains have been suspended. Consequently, prices of all the essential commodities are soaring. Scarcity of coal for industries, especially tea industry and also soft coke and steam coal for domestic consumption is prevailing. Keroseneoil is also not available.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to restore the rail-link between North Bengal and South Bengal and other parts of West Bengal and pending restoration of this link, alternative arrangement may please be made forthwith.

(xii) **Need to re-consider the decision to set up a National Park in Saharanpur**

श्री जगराल सिंह (हरिद्वार) : सभापति जी, गांधी जी हरिजन बस्ती में इसलिए रहते थे ताकि हरिजनों का उद्धार हो सके।