

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

I demand a high level probe into the accident in Kachchi Bahihari 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।

[श्री जगपाल सिंह]

सहारनपुर जिले में शिवालिक पर्वतीय श्रृंखला में पुराना ग्रामीण उद्योग के तौर पर 40 हजार हरिजन परिवार जंगल में भाभड़ काट कर लाते हैं और उससे बान बनाकर अपना गुजारा करते हैं। यह उनका उद्योग है। छोटे व ग्रामीण उद्योग को सरकारी तौर पर मदद करनी चाहिए। मैंने सरकार से मांग की थी कि इनको आर्थिक सहायता व छूट देकर इस धंधे को बढ़ाने में मदद करें ताकि हरिजन परिवार पल सकें। सरकार हरिजनों को उजाड़ कर नेशनल पार्क बना रही है जो कि अनुचित है और हरिजन कभी इस बात को नहीं मानेंगे। सरकार अपने फैसले को बदले और उनकी मांग काटने की रोक वापस ले ताकि यह हरिजन अपना जीवन चला सकें। सरकार से मांग है कि नेशनल पार्क न बनाए या बनाने से पहले कोई छोटे उद्योग घंघा लगा कर उनके लिए रोजी रोटी सुरक्षित करे।

14.41 hrs.

MOTION RE : REPORT OF EIGHTH
FINANCE COMMISSION AND
MEMORANDUM OF ACTION
TAKEN THEREON—
Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Pranab Mukherjee on the Report of the Eighth Finance Commission.

SHRI GULSHER AHMED (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, I must admire the Chairman of the Eighth Finance Commission for solving a very difficult problem that all the previous Finance Commissions had to face. The problem was how to balance the share of different States so that those States, which are deficit or backward,

how their share could be increased so that their backwardness could be removed. The Seventh Finance Commission, and even before that, the backwardness of the State was taken into consideration and a different formula was envisaged by them. But the cherished goal or object which those Commissions wanted to achieve could not be achieved. The figures proved this fact.

Mr. Chairman, before devolution, according to the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission, there were only six States which were surplus. Those States were Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and one more State. There were about 22 States, and out of them six were surplus before devolution. But after the devolution, according to the principle or criteria laid down by the Eighth Finance Commission, five more States will become surplus, and I am very thankful to the Members of the Commission for at least my State is going to become surplus. The five States which will become surplus after devolution are very big States. They are Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and another state. This way, according to the recommendation of the present Finance Commission 11 States will become surplus and one State, Rajasthan, will remain deficit in the year 1984-85 and 1985-86, but after that, Mr Vyas, your Rajasthan will also become surplus. The position of your State was really very bad.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur) :
Must be had in 1984-85.

SHRI GULSHER AHMED : I have told you that. But imagine how they have manipulated with this formula. They have made yours a surplus State after 1986-87.

Another important thing is that they have said that the criteria for distribution of States' share between the States *inter se* should be the same so far as the income-tax and excise duty are concerned. Before this, different criteria were fixed for the devolution of excise duty and income-tax.