

लोगों को बहुत सुविधा होगी। इसलिए इस लाइन पर पैसेजर ट्रेन चलाई जावे। उसी तरह महाराष्ट्र एक्सप्रेस और दादर एक्सप्रेस जो कि नागपुर से है वह गोंदिया से शुरू करने वास्ते वहाँ के सभी लोगों की काफ़ी दिनों से मांग है। इसके वास्ते पहले भी मैंने कई बार कहा है। यह लोगों की मांग पूरी की जावे।

सरकार से मेरा निवेदन है कि उपरोक्त कामों पर रेल मंत्रालय द्वारा तुरन्त निगम्य करके पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र के लोगों को राहत दिलाई जावे।

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the Chair]

(ii) Need for more post-matric Scholarships for SC&ST students in Orissa.

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Orissa has the second largest tribal population numbering about 53 lakhs living in five districts and some pockets of other districts. The percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Tribes and Castes in Orissa is very low and it is the worst in case of the tribals. In most of the tribes the literacy percentage is as low as 10 per cent and even less than that. The drop-outs of the tribes in Orissa at the primary level as per the latest information is 94.5 per cent. Few boys who manage to go to colleges or post matric classes cannot afford, due to poverty, to prosecute their studies as many of them cannot get lodging and boarding facilities. I, therefore, draw the attention of the Education Ministry to sanction more post-matric scholarships and more post-matric hostel buildings urgently to enable these tribal boys to avoid drop-outs and prosecute their studies in the few colleges started recently in these tribal areas in Orissa especially in Koraput district.

(iii) Need for Central Government's finance to Subarnarekha multi-purpose project.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsore) Subarnarekha multipurpose project is a very long pending demand of the people of the State of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa, in the absence of which, millions of people suffer every year due to flood, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of energy, etc. After several years of efforts, rupees eight hundred crores Subarnareka multipurpose project is in execution, with agreement between these three States on the initiative and mediation of the Union Government. The World Bank has agreed to pay 49 per cent of the total expenditure as loan and the rest 51 per cent will be borne by the three States in equal share. But all these three States are very much handicapped in financing the project due to constraint of resources. If this project is not executed and completed soon, it will hit hard many millions of people of these three States. So, the only solution to overcome this problem is that the Government of India come to their rescue.

I would, therefore, request the Union Government very earnestly to kindly agree to finance the project, so that the progress in execution of the project may not be hampered, as after completion of this project, the woes of the millions of people will be redressed.

(iv) Impounding passports of Indian Artists/Sportsman who visit South Africa Clandestinely.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Several Indian musicians, artists, sportsmen and others have, from time to time, been visiting clandestinely the Republic of South Africa. The visit to South Africa by two Indian artists was reported just a few days ago...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You read out whatever has been approved, please...

(Interruptions)**

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : This is happening notwithstanding India's economic, diplomatic, cultural, trade and sports boycott of the racist regime and the fact that Indian Passports are not endorsed for travel to South Africa. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government of India should impound the passports of all such persons. This Parliament must also unequivocally reassert our anti-apartheid policies and firmly reject the approaches of those who would like us to take a soft line towards the racist regime of South Africa.

(v) Setting up of proposed electronic digital switching factory at Bangalore.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South) : Indian Telephone Industry at Bangalore is one of the most successful public sector industries. The ITI has started its activities with the full cooperation of Government of Karnataka and has now spread to other parts of India. The main item of manufacture at Bangalore Unit of ITI is the Telephone Exchanges and cross bar telephone exchanges. Due to changes in technology, the conventional telephone exchanges are giving way to digital electronic switching equipment. About 5,000 persons engaged in the manufacture of conventional exchanges at Bangalore Complex would be rendered jobless within two years or will be retrenched due to this change in technology.

To overcome the problems of retrenchment of skilled workers, the management of ITI proposes setting up of electronic digital switching factory at a location close to Bangalore so that the staff being rendered surplus at

Bangalore Complex could be redeployed in the new factory. The management of ITI requested the State Government for a suitable piece of land and assurances for supply of water and power. A suitable piece of land was allocated and firm assurances regarding supply of water and power were also given. The French collaborators of the project saw the land and approved the location. The Ministry of Communications recommended the location near Bangalore and this proposal was also approved by the Government of India. However, actual investment has yet to commence.

I appeal to Government to take early steps to set up electronic digital switching factory at Bangalore.

(vi) Need to take early decision to declare Tuticorin Port as the pricing point for fixing cost of petroleum products in southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakasi) : It is reported that the Central Government has been approached for declaring the Tuticorin Port as the pricing point for fixing the cost of petroleum products in the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu, so as to enable the consumers to get them at slightly lower rates. At present, Cochin is the pricing point for the petroleum products being sold in Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts and the consumers in those districts have to bear the transport cost. Coastal movement would enable a larger quantity of petroleum products and bulk movement would also reduce the cost of products. It would also help the port to utilise more the oil jetty, which is not being used now to the full capacity. I request that the Central Government may take an early decision in the matter so that the consumers in the districts mentioned might be benefited.