

[Shsi Ajit Bag]

crores for the Second Hooghly Bridge this year. Now the Second Hooghly Bridge Commission is in dire need of Rs. 11 crores immediately in order to release a huge quantity of imported steel from the dock within a few days. Under these circumstances I urge upon the Government to release Rs. 11 crores immediately to the Second Hooghly Bridge Commission without any delay so that the project work could not be hampered.

(iii) Need for a halt station at Buhan-puc for Jhelum Express and Mahanagari Express

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर (खंडवा): सभापति महोदय, पिछले 30 वर्ष में बुरहानपुर से वाराणसी एवं दिल्ली से आने जाने के लिए कोई नई ट्रेन नहीं बड़ी है। इस बीच में अमी-अमी 2 नई ट्रेन बम्बई से जम्मू-तवी (झेलम एक्सप्रेस) और बम्बई से वाराणसी (महानगरी एक्सप्रेस) शुरू हुई हैं परन्तु दोनों ही ट्रेन बुरहानपुर नहीं रुकती हैं।

बुरहानपुर मध्य प्रदेश का 11वें नम्बर का महत्वपूर्ण शहर है, नगर निगम है। 17,000 पावरलूम चलते हैं, 28 साइडिंग हैं, 5 कलैडरिंग प्लांट हैं, स्पिनिंग मिल, बीविंग मिल हैं, कपास उत्पादन का बड़ा केन्द्र है, 14 करोड़ रुपये का केला प्रतिवर्ष बुरहानपुर से बाहर भेजा जाता है।

मुसलमानों, बोहरों, सिखों, हिन्दुओं का तीर्थ-स्थान है, ऐतिहासिक पर्यटन-स्थल है, मुमताज महल की मृत्यु बुरहानपुर में हुई थी, कबीर पंथियों के मंदिर हैं। बुरहानपुर से दिल्ली, मनमाड, पूना का काफी ट्रैफिक है। बुरहानपुर से वाराणसी का भी काफी ट्रैफिक है। अतः रेलवे मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि (1) झेलम एक्सप्रेस (2) महानगरी एक्सप्रेस को बुरहानपुर में रोक जाये।

(iv) Pension benefit for retired Seamen.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): The Seafarers Welfare Fund Society of the Government of India has instituted pension benefits of Rs. 85/- per month to registered Indian Seamen whose registration has been cancelled on or after January 1, 1975. This has been a great relief not merely to the Seamen concerned but also to their families and dependents. However, this pension is denied to those who retired or were declared physically unfit before 1975. This discrimination does not appear to be logical or equitable. It may be recalled that in case of Seamen who retired prior to January 1975 their working conditions were much harsher and particularly before 1964, duty hours, over-time, double pay on paid holidays, Provident Fund and such other amenities were not even heard of. I therefore, urge Government to extend the above pension benefits also to those Seamen who retired before January 1, 1975. I further urge Government to look into the unsatisfactory manner of recruitment and conditions of service of Seamen and unemployment prevailing among them and to evolve a comprehensive strategy to provide a better deal to this section of our population.

(v) Need for resumption of Madurai edition of the Tamil Daily "Makkal Kural"

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI (Pollachi): The Tamil Daily "Makkal Kural" (Voice of the People which is boasting as a champion of the working class has closed the Madurai edition illegally by throwing many workers and their families to the streets. The owner who is also the President of Indian Federation of Working Journalists, has opted lockout without proper remunerations.