

country, but the kerosene quota sanctioned to this state is less than six percent of total requirements of the State. Keeping in view the population of the state, the monthly requirement of kerosene for the state is about 67474 Metric tonnes. In monsoon, the consumption of kerosene oil goes up.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to supply maximum kerosene to the State for this month.

(vi) **Need to introduce Value Added Tax Patterns for Cigarette Industry**

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, in the interim report submitted by the Tax Reforms Committee to the Government certain very important recommendations have been made, both pertaining to direct and indirect taxes. The matter has been discussed at length on the floor of the House during the Budget Session. The Tax Reforms Committee has recommended to the Government the introduction of *ad valorem* or value added pattern of Central excise duty for all commodities, though no specific mention has been made of every commodity in detail. Based on the details submitted by the Tax Reforms Committee and on the basis of the representations received from various quarters, a suggestion was made to the hon. Finance Minister to introduce value added tax pattern for cigarette industry or alternatively it could be a blend of specific-cum-*ad valorem* in public interest and from the point of view of raising more Government revenue.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take necessary steps in the matter.

(vii) **Need for construction of a flyover at Changsari Railway gate on National Highway No. 31, Assam**

SHRI PROBINA DEKA (Mangaldoi): Sir,

the people of Assam are agitating over the construction of a flyover at Changsari - 1 railway gate on national highway N. 31 connecting Barpeta and Guwahati. This strength of road is the busiest in the whole of Assam. For want of a flyover at this railway gate, vehicles plying on the national highway No. 31 remain stranded for hours together, since the railway gate remains closed for passing trains one after another. On many occasions, it so happened that patients in critical condition breathed their last before reaching the Guwahati Medical College Changansri. The city of Guwahati is expanding very rapidly towards Changsari. The proposed IIT buildings are also being constructed near Changsari.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to make necessary arrangements for the construction of a flyover at Changsari railway gate.

12.15 hrs.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

**Drought Situation in Various Parts of the Country - CONTD.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will have further discussion on prevailing drought situation in various parts of the country. Shri Rajveer Singh, you will continue your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I had initiated a discussion on the drought situation and today also you have ordered me to continue the discussion. Sir, even yesterday, I had submitted that we have not been able to utilise water properly. For the last ten years or so there had been some changes in weather and the percentage of rain is going down every year. We assembled to discuss the drought situation when such a situation arises. Yesterday I had submitted that even through the discussions are held in the House,