

*(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh for canalization of swain and other small rivulets*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Swain river and its 73 tributaries in Una dsitric of Himachal Pradesh cause heavy loss every year. During rainy season, Swain and its tributaries take a very dangerous turn and become the main cause of destruction in this district. People of this district have been demanding for the last several years for canalization of Swain and its tributaries but unfortunately, neither the Union Government nor the State Government has paid attention to this demand. As a result thereof, life and property worth crores of rupees is lost every year.

If swain river and its 73 tributaries are canalized, 28 thousand acres of land can be made fertile. Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government that sufficient funds may be made available for canalization of Swain river and its 73 tributaries so that this river could help in the development of the region instead of causing destruction.

*(v) Need to increase the pension upto Rs. 200/- per month under oldmen's pension scheme.*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has implemented old-age Pension scheme for the old persons living below poverty line. But with this meagre amount of pension they are not able to make both ends meet.

I request the Union Government that the amount of pension may be increased at least up to rupees two hundred per month.

*(vi) Need to maintain the status-quo of the Bhavani Cutcherry post office as delivery office.*

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Communications to the proposed merger of Bhavani Cutcherry Delivery Sub-office with delivery jurisdiction of Bhavani Head Post Office and conversion of Bhavani Cutcherry Sub-office into a 'No Delivery Sub-office' by the Postal authorities and put forth the following few lines for consideration.

Bhavani is in my parliamentary constituency of Gobichettipalayam in Tamil Nadu. There are two delivery post offices which were functioning till 18.10.1995. The decision of sudden merger of Bhavani Cutcherry Delivery sub-office has been taken on flimsy grounds by the Postal authorities. The Bhavani Cutcherry Delivery Sub-office is situated in an important locality. This merger will definitely create great hardship and inconvenience to the general public and business community. If this is implemented, the present accommodation at Bhavani Head Post Office will not be sufficient to cope up with the additional workload. The delivery office as a whole may be located at the central place and the proposed acquisition of land may be taken up speedily for construction of Mail Delivery Office.

It is learnt that there is a move to close down several Post Offices in Tamil Nadu circle especially in my parliamentary constituency. The handloom carpet weavers are also facing difficulty in sending their carpets due to non-availability of canvas bags.

I urge upon the Government to maintain the *status quo* until a separate Main Delivery Office at Bhavani Town is opened.

14.40 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

*Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Reports*

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Sir, I bet to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce :

(1) Eighteenth Report of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Repeal) Bill, 1995;

(2) Nineteenth Report on Indo-SriLankan Trade Relations;

(3) Twentieth Report on Indo-Nepal Trade Relations; and

(4) Twenty-first Report on Leather Industry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kumari Mamta Banerjee was on her legs to speak. Now, may I request her to start the speech?