

About old age pension, many states ...

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:**  
How many?

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON:** That, I do not have at the moment because I was concerned only with the recommendations; I do not want to give him a wrong figure. Many States are implementing it. So far as the amount is concerned, in some States it is less than Rs. 60/- and in some States it is more than Rs. 60/-.

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:**  
No; it is less; Bihar is giving only Rs. 30/-.

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON:** As I have said, in some States it is less than Rs. 60/- and in some States it is more than Rs. 60/-.

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:**  
Which are those States?

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON:** I have already replied about that.

**SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:**  
It is misleading.

प्रश्न महोदय : अब माप विवाहित के प्रश्न पर बोलें ?

ज. सुभाषचन्द्र स्वामी : दूसरा मजदूर पूछने वाला हूँ ।

Sir, I have read the rape 29 points which are exhaustive but it misses out one of the most important social welfare programmes which his Ministry and he are directly responsible for and which is there in the Directive Principles of the Constitution—and that is prohibition. That is missing from this list of 29 points. Does this mean that the Government has decided to give up seeking to implement prohibition? I would like him to make clear the Government's position on this important social welfare programme.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:**  
He will drink to the health of prohibition:

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON:** Regarding prohibition, though nothing has been mentioned here...

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:**  
Why?

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON:** ... I can assure the hon. Member that the Government is equally aware of the importance of this programme ...

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:**  
Sir, what is the meaning of 'equally aware'? It is not there in the 29 points. It does mean that it does not get priority. Do you drink yourself?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question—  
Shri Ramjibhai Mavani ... Then  
Shri Amar Roypradhan.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:**  
Question No. 358 ...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question No. 368  
—Railways.

**Railway Line from Assam to Meghalaya Border**

\*358. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADPHAN:**  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to construct a new railway line from Assam to Meghalaya border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):** (a) to (c). Perhaps the Hon'ble Member is referring to the construction of Gauhati—Bordua—Burnihat new BG railway line. Meghalaya State Government's proposal to terminate this rail link at Bordua

(a place near Assam—Meghalaya border), instead of at Burnihat, is currently under active consideration. It is expected that a decision will be taken shortly.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** You will agree with me that this region, that is the North Eastern Region, is most backward...

**MR. SPEAKER:** I only disagree with you during the Zero Hour; otherwise, I always agree.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** And it is also most backward in the matter of railway lines and also railway administration...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** We have no railway line.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** This is a simple and evasive reply that 'it is under active consideration.' Sir, I have got three replies—one in 1980, one in 1981 and one in 1982. The latest one, that is, the 1982 reply is dated 15th July 1982. In every reply the hon. Minister said that it is under active consideration. I do not know how long this active consideration will go and whether it will end in the 19th century or the 20th century or the 21st century. Certainly, the hon. Minister can say that there is some difference between his previous reply and this reply. And this is that previously there was a proposal to construct a railway line from Gauhati to Burnihat—a BG railway link of 28.21 km. Now it has been changed and it is now from Gauhati to Bordua.

So I would like to know from the hon. Minister why it has been curtailed from Gauhati to Burnihat to Gauhati to Bordua and why the proposal of the North Eastern Council, that is, let there be a railway line from Gauhati to Burnihat has not been accepted.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN:** Sir, 'active consideration' means to reactivate the consideration.

Sir, in this case, what happened is that the Prime Minister in 1974 took a decision that this North Eastern Region must be developed and the communication system must be developed so much so that development can take place. As a consequence of that, there were six lines which have been approved and the Planning Commission also has given its concurrence and this is one of the lines—Gauhati to Burnihat in Meghalaya connecting Assam area and Meghalaya. This is a 28 km. line which has been approved by the North Eastern Council and the Planning Commission.

But, Sir, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya—I mean to say, the Government of Meghalaya want that this terminal should not be Burnihat but it should be Bordua which is just two k.m. from the Assam Border whereas Burnihat is almost 10 miles from Assam—Meghalaya Border. The State Government has become an obstacle and the State Government, again, even after repeated persuasion, wants that the terminal should be only at Bordua. The reasons have also been given but these were contested by the North-Eastern Council. The North-Eastern Council is firm that this new line must be terminated at Burnihat. So much so, today, we could not make any progress. On the contrary, we made progress in the other five lines in the North-Eastern region. At the moment the matter about the dispute of the terminal at Burnihat has been referred back to the Ministry of Railways whether we should drop this proposal or to go ahead with it. What the Railway Ministry has done is that it has now referred this matter to the Home Minister to the Planning Commission to the Cabinet Secretariat and to the Government of Meghalaya to give their final concurrence as to whether we should go ahead with this line or we should drop this proposal.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Sir, the North-Eastern Council's recommendation has been neglected totally. Also the Planning Commission report has also been neglected by the Railway Ministry. However, I would like to know whether a technoeconomic survey has been made by the Railways to have a line from Gauhati to Burnihat. If so, what is the estimated cost of this line?

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN:** A survey has been made and the cost of this line now is about Rs. 14 crores. We have also spent some money about Rs. 70 lakhs has been spent. The survey has been completed.

Therefore, we are prepared to construct this line. Fund is also no problem because we have to pay special attention to this. In this context I would like to mention here that our Prime Minister has taken a special view so far as North-Eastern Region is concerned. By not going into the conventional way of allocation of finances, they have taken up this line. Our conventional system is this. Unless it is remunerative we do not go in for the line. Here, whether it is remunerative or unremunerative, because of development of the backward region of North-Eastern Region, this has been taken up and the lines have been cleared. This is the position.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** The peculiarity is that one State is given the line. They are not taking it up. In the States of Tripura and Mizoram, my constituency—Gauhati—is connected by three hill sections with practically 36 tunnels and, at our request, in the Railway Budget, it was announced that the techno-economic survey for a broadgauge line from Jaggi Road to Badarpur would be made. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the present position and whether this is also under the active consideration of Government?

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN:** Though this does not concern this question, since the hon. Member desires to

elicit some information there is a proposal to have a survey from Jaggi Road to Badarpur. The survey is now under progress. The railways have entrusted this work to RITES.

### Vocational Education

\*359. **SHRMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the year of introduction of the scheme by Government to vocationalise education;

(b) the names of States where such a scheme has been launched; and

(c) the details of programme undertaken in different States under the above scheme?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Statement

The importance of vocationalisation of school education has been emphasised since long. But it is being advocated on a national scale as a part of the 10+2 system only since 1975.

The following States and Union Territories have so far introduced vocational courses at the 2 stage (The year of introduction of these courses is given in parenthesis).

Andhra Pradesh (1979), Gujarat (1977), Karnataka (1977), Maharashtra (1978), Tamil Nadu (1978), West Bengal (1976), A & N Islands (1980), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (1978), Delhi (1977), Goa, Daman & Diu (1981) and Pondicherry (1978).

Keeping in view the socio-economic needs of the area, the States/