

[Sh. Tara Chand Khandelwal]

years. The conditions of the quarters constructed under the scheme in very pitiable. Those houses may collapse any time. For the last one year, they have not been repaired. I would like to request the Minister concerned to take action and ensure implementation of the scheme and allotment of quarter and repairs thereof.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri D.P. Yadav

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(vi) Need to develop Chikna railway station (North-Eastern Railway) into a crossing railway station.

(120R377)  
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV  
(Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my name is being written as D.P. Yadav instead of Devendra Prasad Yadav, which led to misunderstanding and uproar in the house in the past....(Interruptions).

Chikna railway station which lies at the distance of 7 km. East of Tamuria station and 6 km. west of Ghogardiha station on the Darbhanga Niramali Rail line under Samastipur Division of the North-Eastern Railway Zone, was constructed in the year 1952. In view of the demands of the local public, the Divisional Railway Manager (Eng.) of Samastipur already issued orders for converting and developing that station (railway station) into ( a full-fledged) crossing railway station. But surprisingly in July, 1991 a departmental tender was issued for converting that station into merely a Halt-station. There are about 20 villages including Chikna, Kewatria, Jaypatti, Virali, Sadui, which are catered by this station. This is a flood-prone areas and sugar-cane is grown in abundance in the area. It will create great difficulties for the thousands of the people of that area, if that station is converted into a Halt.

So, I demand withdrawal of that tender

in public interest keeping in view the inconvenience in transportation and the difficulties of sugar-cane growers. And I further demand that of Chikna Station be developed as crossing station.

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(vii) Need to convert Krishnanagar telephone exchange into electronic exchange. (120R377)

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY  
(Krishnanagar): Sir, Krishnanagar, the district headquarters of Nadia situated on the Indo-Bangladesh border is one of the oldest towns of the country having a rich heritage of culture and a seat of learning. After the partition of Bengal, the importance of the district including Krishnanagar town has grown to a great extent with huge influx of population from the other side of the border. But the telecommunication system in the district has not been updated and is in a very bad shape. The manually operated telephone exchange at Krishnanagar is causing much inconvenience to the people.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to convert the Krishnanagar telephone exchange into an electronic exchange.

356 *Yadav*  
(viii) Need to complete track renewal work on shoranur-Nilambur line

(120R377)  
SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): The Railways have stopped the track renewal work on Shoranur-Nilambur line, in spite of fact that this was a sanctioned work. Out of 64 kilometres, renewal work of only 44 kilometres track has been completed. Though funds were provided for it and more than 200 workers were allotted for the work, the work for the remaining 22 kilometres suddenly stopped. Four years ago the Railway Board sanctioned the track renewal work and funds were also provided. Had it been continued,

the 64 kilometres work would have been completed. If the entire track renewal work is completed, the present speed of the trains could be raised from 40 k.m. per hour to 60 k.m. per hour. Further, the entire money already sanctioned may lapse due to this unjustifiable decision of the railway authorities of the Southern Railway. The people of that area (backward Ernad area) are very much agitated over this issue.

I request the Minister of Railways to look into the matter and ensure completion of the said track renewal work.

13.20 hrs.

357-483

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1991-92

Ministry of Defence

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

Now, Shri Jaswant Singh may speak:

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): What about the quorum, Sir?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I won't raise this.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is hot the question of raising, but the Minister should at least ensure this. But I am not raising it... (Interruptions).

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Why all Congressmen are absent on such an important debate?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They are coming. They are anxious to hear.... (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Those who are responsible to run the House are absent.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They are coming now.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Allies are here in full strength to support the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please direct the Government.... (Interruptions).

[English]

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SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Sir, I hold that this discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 1991-92 is of particular importance to our country.

Sir in a situation of rapidly transforming, indeed transformed international and internal situation where the boundaries of yesterday's certainties have altered irrevocably the Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence for 1990-91 makes for very unhappy reading. I really do not know to which period or to what particular difficulties, problems and challenges it is referring because I am sure the ...

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikram ganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no