

(vi) Need to take necessary steps to settle Border Dispute between Assam and Nagaland

SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA (Kaliabor) : Sir, tension is mounting along the border of Assam and Nagaland. People of Assam are feeling very insecure in such a tense situation. Although the Government of Assam have beefed up the security arrangements in the border villages, even then there prevails a panicky situation. The Government of Assam requested the Government of Nagaland to make an amicable settlement of the disputed issue through negotiations. A team of officials from both the States may visit the border areas to sort out the disputed issues before the situation goes out of control. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take necessary steps to ensure that the border disputes between Assam and Nagaland are settled amicably.

(vii) Need to set up a Modern Hospital on the pattern of AIIMS at Biswanath Charali in Sonitpur District of Assam.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : The north bank of Assam and adjoining Arunachal Pradesh are conspicuous by the absence of a single proper, modern and reliable hospital. The district hospitals are woefully deficient in essential facilities and equipments. Consequently, most of the serious patients from this region have to incur tremendous cost and hardship in travelling all the way to Guwahati and in most cases to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi or to Apollo and Vellore hospitals in distant Tamil Nadu.

As successive State Governments have not paid any heed to this crying need of the long suffering people and as the people of Arunachal Pradesh are also equally interested in the proposal, demands have been made in this House and elsewhere for establishment of a medical college and hospital as an extension of the AIIMS as a central institution. But so far, nothing concrete has been done.

Biswanath Charali in Sonitpur district is not only the mid-point of North bank but accessible within a couple of hours from Arunachal Pradesh. Only an hour's drive from Tezpur Airport, Biswanath on the bank of the Brahmaputra has plenty of vacant Government land suitable for locating such a hospital. So far as structuring of the project of the inter-State nature is concerned, following alternatives are for consideration:—

- (i) A medical college and hospital as an extension of All India Institute of Medical Sciences entirely funded by and under the Central Government.

- (ii) A hospital with or without a medical college under the Centre but funded jointly by the Government of India, North-Eastern Council and the Government of Assam.

- (iii) A specialities medical collage under the Central University Tezpur. I fervently urge upon the Union Government to initiate proposals to set up a modern hospital to be located at Biswanath Charali in Sonitpur District of Assam on the above lines.

(viii) Need to convert narrow-gauge line between Jaunpur and Aurihar Junction into broad gauge

[Translation]

SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER (Saidpur) : In my parliamentary constituency, Saidpur in Uttar Pradesh, there is a narrow gauge rail line between Jaunpur and Aurihar junction. There has been a long pending demand for the conversion of this line into broad gauge. The passenger train running on this line has also been withdrawn instead a rail bus has been introduced causing a lot of difficulties to the passengers and traders which has also increased extra transport expenditure on the public. This route covers the largest tehsil of Ghazipur district, Saidpur and the largest tehsil of Jaunpur, Kerakat. With the conversion of this 60 kms. long line, Jaunpur will have direct link with Ghazipur, Balia, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh districts etc. and the people of the district will have facility of travelling, besides their time would be saved. Traders time and money in transportation of goods would also be saved besides people would be benefited by this. All other rail lines of the area except this, have been converted into broad gauge like Varanasi-Aurihar, Shahganj to Aurihar, Shahganj to Azamgarh and Mau etc.

Therefore, the Union Government is urged upon to convert this 60 kms. long rail line between Jaunpur and Aurihar junction into broad gauge so that the people of Jaunpur and Ghazipur may have facility of travelling and the common man may be benefited.

14.22 hrs.

MOTION RE: SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BIHAR—contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up further discussion on the Motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I would request Shri Rajesh Ranjan to continue.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.