

is no other alternative road to connect Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. But the condition of the road has become worse. The work pertaining to widening of the road was taken up a decade ago, but the completion of widening work has not made much progress. The quality of work is also not satisfactory particularly work from Jagatpur to Chandbali. It is very difficult to ply vehicle on that portion particularly during rainy season. Due to dilapidated condition of the road the accidents are taking place on that road very frequently.

In view of the importance of the road, I demand that the Central Government should bear the entire cost of the construction, maintenance and widening of the road from Jagatpur to Chandbali and complete the entire work during the year 2000.

(xi) Need to transfer of Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur section from South Central to Central Railway

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that at present the section between Kolhapur to Pune is in Hubli Division (Karnataka) and Zonal Head Quarter is at Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Sir, it has become very difficult for the people of Maharashtra in view of the fact that the distance to Secunderabad is much more as compared to Mumbai. In addition the language problem is also there. They are required to converse either in Telugu or Kannada, which is very difficult task. The people in my area have been demanding to attach this section to Mumbai (Central Railway) instead of with South Central Railway. This demand has been pending since 1971, the year in which meter gauge was converted into broad gauge. It is understood, that the decision to bring Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur under the jurisdiction of Pune Division was taken long back. But actual implementation of the decision has not started yet. I have been pursuing the matter from the very day since I entered the Parliament during the 12th Lok Sabha. The people in the area have welcomed the decision wholeheartedly but they are feeling the delay caused in the process of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation warrants immediate action and I demand from the Union Government that Pune-Miraj-Kolhapur section be transferred from South Central to Central Railway without any further delay.

(xii) Need to extend financial package to J&K as provided to North East Region

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA) : I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the fact that for the last ten years J&K State, especially the border of Jammu & Kashmir Valley have suffered heavy jolt. The sources of income in Kashmir Valley have almost dried up. Tourist trade has come to an absolute grinding halt. Almost all the schools in border areas have been destroyed during militants, violence. Bridges, roads and important Government buildings have also been damages. National

Conference Government had to start afresh to restore the destroyed infrastructure. The double-pronged thrust of facing militancy on one hand and to restore the process of development and rebuilding of infrastructure on the other hand is an onerous job.

Under such circumstances, J&K State needs full-fledged help from the Central Government. It is heartening to note that hon. Prime Minister has announced the financial package to North-Eastern States. We stress the need for extending the similar financial package to J&K State, so that hope and strength would be generated again in the peace-loving masses and their strength for restoring normalcy from the terrorist violence will come to forefront.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, do not compell us. We want the House to run smoothly. But if our rights are snatched, then we will be compelled to protest against it. It is my submission to you to have a debate over it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We will participate in the debate and will expose them....(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH KUMAR SINGH (MAHARAJ-GANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is terrified due to the activities of R.S.S.

12.09 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF
NOTIFICATION TO AMEND FIRST SCHEDULE
OF CUSTOMS TARIFF ACT**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move the following Resolution :

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 12/2000-Customs dated 9.2.2000 [G.S.R. 101 (E) dated 9.2.2000] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods under sub-heading Nos. 1701.11, 1701.12, 1701.91 and 1701.99 from "40%" to "60%."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 8A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 12/2000-Customs dated 9.2.2000 [G.S.R. 101 (E) dated 9.2.2000] which seeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods under sub-heading Nos. 1701.11, 1701.12, 1701.91 and 1701.99 from "40%" to "60%."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

there is a pending motion under Rule 193 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, regarding the RSS activities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is all this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we find in the newspapers, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, on Item No. 19, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi wants to intervene. I will call you after he speaks

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have given the Notice under rule 193 ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji. I will call you later on.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I want to know only the time and date on which the debate will be held. The Government was prepared to hold a debate under rule 193 from the very beginning and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had also said...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the leaders of the opposition, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Somnath Chatterjee, have moved certain Motions before you. You have to hear them. I hope to join them later. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, Item No. 19, viz. Statutory Resolution, pertaining to increase in customs tariff on sugar, is very very important. On this matter the Government owes an explanation to the entire House. It is true that increasing the customs tariff will provide relief to the kisans. So, we are in agreement with the Government on the Resolution. But why has the Government delayed imposing this duty which caused disaste to the nation and the farmers? No less a person than Shri Kalyan Singh, the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, during the Kargil operation, submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister that because of this sugar import under OGL in a clandestine fashion from Pakistan — even from companies which are reported to have been backed by ISI — sugar is coming in abundance to India and that there was no check nor was there any monitoring measure.

I would like to submit through you, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Minister after having moved this Resolution must clarify as to why the Government kept quiet, and as to why there was an ominous silence on the issue of farmers and allowed these things to continue, when the Government had every authority to impose the import duty in time. Why did the Government delay? ...*(Interruptions)*

I am not debating about the amount involved in the scam and about the sugar scandal. We would take it up at the appropriate time. I only demand, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that the Minister of Finance should give an explanation as to why there was a delay in imposing the import duty in this fashion after having allowed the import under OGL at zero duty to a certain level which destroyed the prospects of the kisans. Why was the complaint lodged by the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kalyan Singh's Memorandum not replied to? At that time

he was very much the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The kisans of Uttar Pradesh made this demand through their Chief Minister. This is the bone of contention. I think the Minister owes an explanation to the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the import of sugar was placed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your objection is time-barred. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No objection is time-barred. ...*(Interruptions)* I have submitted it before time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No. Your objection is time-barred. Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am really sorry. It cannot be time-barred. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the import of sugar was placed under OGL. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It cannot be time-barred. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Do not challenge the decision of the Speaker. you have been a speaker yourself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, once you were also the Speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the import of sugar was placed on Open General Licence in March 1994. I do not have to remind this country as to who was in power in March 1994 when it was put on OGL.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not correct. Do not try to avoid the real issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the activities of Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh are going on in the entire country, it is not a question of Gujarat alone...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Except the Finance Minister's speech, nothing should go on record.