

those contractors should be awarded contracts who have E.P.F. numbers. When the local people approach the office of the Regional Provident Commissioner for E.P.F. number, they are turned away on the ground that as per the Government's instruction EPF number is not to be allotted to any person. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Labour to give a directive to the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Shimla that contractors undertaking temporary works should be exempted from seeking EPF numbers and if it is so necessary to have EPF number then it should be allotted to all the contractors.

(iii) Need to expedite Gauge conversion work on Gorakhpur-Gonda Loop Line

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my district Siddharth Nagar was carved out from Basti district in 1988 which is on Nepal border. Till now no industry could be set up in this district as in spite of the constant efforts since 1991 at Naugarh station which falls on Gorakhpur-Gonda loop line the gauge conversion work has not yet been started. This project was included in the Railway Budget of 1997-98. The total cost of this project was Rs. 250 crore. Since then I am regularly hearing that soon work will start after getting the approval of the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Committee on Financial Affairs. In the absence of it, the Lucknow-bound passenger of this region are required to change trains at Gonda. There is no direct train to Mumbai, Calcutta etc. Moreover Coal and fertilizers meant for this district are being off-loaded at Basti Railway Station.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to expedite the gauge conversion work of this rail line to foster the development of this region.

(iv) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of Goa to Mitigate Hardship being faced by people due to Floods

SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to sudden flood in 3-4 Assembly constituencies falling under my Parliamentary Constituency Panaji (Goa) in June about 170 houses were washed away and about 100 houses were partially damaged. The main reason for the flood was torrential rains and as a result of this the soil excavated from the mines got deposited into the river and water entered in the market and houses thereby causing extensive loss to the people. The Government of India earns foreign exchange worth Rs. 800 crore annually for the export of minerals extracted from this area but Goa does not receive anything from export.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that in view of the problem of floods in Goa it should provide

immediate Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 50 crore for desilting, cleaning of the rivers and for permanent solution of this problem.

(v) Need to review the decision for Disinvestment of Profit-Making Public Sector Enterprises Particularly Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the decision of the Central Government to disinvest major share holdings in 20 public sector enterprises worth Rs. 10,000 crore by 31 March, 2001 has created extreme depression and panic among trade unions towards their future and they have regarded it as the infringement and blow to their interest and rights. All through my life I have worked in Hindustan Zinc Ltd. which is a regular profit making & debt free public sector undertaking. I am still associated with this institution. As a result of the relentless efforts of the management and the workers the company maintained an excellent record and attained dizzy heights and I am witness to this.

It is necessary that the Government should review its decision of disinvestment in Hindustan Zinc Ltd., the company that has worked to make the country self-reliant alongwith ten other companies before its implementation.

Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had nationalised the banking, industries, Mines, Oil and Textile Mills with the objective to provide employment to all the sections of the society particularly the youth of Vananchal and to strengthen the country.

On the basis of my experience as a trade unionist, I can submit that Hindustan Zinc Ltd. became the foremost undertaking and has carved out a niche for itself on account of the collective contribution, dedication honesty of the labourers and the commitment of the management. The disinvestment of such progressive enterprises can not be formed as a good decision.

I hope that the Government would reconsider the issue and take a decision for protecting the interests and rights of lakhs of workers employed in these profit making public sector enterprises particularly Hindustan Zinc Ltd.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will reply after the fax is received. How the Government can give a statement unless the fax is received. We will make a statement in the House after receiving fax from there.

...(Interruptions)