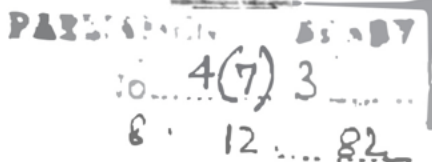


Fifth Series, Vol. IX No. 20

Thursday, December 9, 1971
Agrahayana 18, 1893 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Third Session)



(Vol. XIX contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 9, 1971/Agrahavana 18,
1893 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Ten of the
Clock*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

RE STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR SPEAKER The Defence Minister will make a statement at 1.15 p.m. today. A statement about sugar and kerosene will be made at 12.45 p.m. by the Minister concerned.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

WEST BENGAL EMPLOYEES' PAYMENT
OF COMPULSORY GRATUITY ACT
AND NOTIFICATION UNDER
EXTRADITION ACT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHA-
BILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND
VLRMA) On behalf of Shri R.K.
Khadilkar, I beg to lay on the Table a
copy (Hindi version) of the West Bengal
Employees' Payment of Compulsory Gra-
tuity Act, 1971 (President's Act No. 7 of
1971) published in Gazette of India dated
the 28th August, 1971, under sub-section
(3) of section 3 of the West Bengal State
Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act,
1971 [Placed in Library See No. LT-
1247/71]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) I beg
to lay on the Table a copy of Notification
No. G.S.R. 1381 published in Gazette of
India dated the 18th September, 1971, under

2

section 35 of the Extradition Act, 1962
[Placed in Library See No. LT-1248/71]

10.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

REPORT OF STUDY TOUR

SHRI S.M. SIDDAYYA (Chama-
rajanagar) I beg to present the
Report of the Study Tour of Study Group I
of the Committee on the Welfare of Sched-
uled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to Ma-
harashtra, Goa and Mysore in Septem-
ber, 1971.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

FIRST REPORT

SHRI A.P. SHARMA (Buxar) I beg
to present the First Report of the Com-
mittee on Petitions.

10.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

THIRD REPORT AND MINUTES

SHRI K. BALATHANDAYUTHAM
(Coimbatore) I beg to present the
following Report and Minutes of the Com-
mittee on Public Undertakings —

- (1) Third Report on Bharat Electronics Limited
- (2) Minutes of sittings of the Committee on Public Undertakings (1970-71 and 1971-72) relating to the Third Report of the Committee on Bharat Electronics Limited

10.04 hrs.

**NORTH-EASTERN AREAS
(REORGANISATION)
BILL***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the States of Manipur and Tripura and to provide for the formation of the State of Meghalaya and of the Union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh by reorganisation of the existing State of Assam and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of the States of Manipur and Tripura and to provide for the formation of the State of Meghalaya and of the Union territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh by reorganisation of the existing State of Assam and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I introduce** the Bill.

**APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
NO. 3, BILL,* 1971**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1971-72 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of

India for the service of the financial year 1971-72 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : introduce** the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move*** :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1971-72 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1971-72 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The consideration motion has been moved.

As I promised earlier, the first speaker will be Mr. Yadav.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (मधेपुरा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सब से पहले आप को धन्यवाद दूंगा कि आपने मुझे मौका दिया कि मैं अपनी बात सदन के सामने रख सकूँ।

मैं उत्तर बिहार से आता हूँ और वहाँ पर रेलवे के मामले में बहुत बुरी हालत है। कोई भी गाड़ी वहाँ समय पर नहीं चलती। दो, चार या छः ही नहीं दस-दस बारह-बाह्र घंटे तक पीछे चलती हैं। यहाँ से पटना तक पहुँचने में 18-20 घंटे लगते हैं जब कि उस की दूरी 1200 किलो मीटर है, लेकिन मेरा घर वहाँ से केवल 300 किलो मीटर है फिर भी वहाँ पहुँचने

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 9.12.71.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

***Moved with the recommendation of the President.

में 18-20 घंटे लग जाते हैं। इससे आप अन्दाजा कीजिये कि वहाँ के लोगों को कितनी परेशानी होती होगी।

इस के बाद मैं असम मेल के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा, जिसके सम्बन्ध में काफी कटोवर्सी चल चुकी है। असम मेल उत्तरी बिहार को दिल्ली में मिलाने वाली एक ही गाड़ी है, लेकिन अभी मंत्री महोदय ने ऐसी व्यवस्था की है कि उस को फरक्का हो कर ले जाया जाये। आप उधर से चार गाड़ियां ले जायें, मुझे इस में कोई ऐतराज नहीं है, लेकिन इस गाड़ी को न हटाये। कैपिटल से उत्तर बिहार को मिलाने वाली वह एक ही गाड़ी है जो बरौनी और कटिहार हो कर जाती है। इस लिए आप उस को अपनी जगह पर ही रखें।

मंत्री महोदय ने खुद ही यह स्वीकार किया था कि बरौनी से कटिहार तक की छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में कन्वर्ट किया जायेगा। लेकिन अभी तक इस दिशा में कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया है। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय इस ओर विशेष ध्यान दें और इस को बड़ी लाइन में कन्वर्ट करें।

आप आये दिन सुनते होंगे कि देश में जरूरियात की चीजों के दाम बढ़ने जा रहे हैं। पता नहीं वास्तव में यह बैगनों की कमी के कारण हो रहा है या ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के कारण। अगर बैगनों के निर्माण की कमी के कारण ऐसा हो रहा है तो उस का निर्माण बढ़ाया जाये। उत्तर बिहार में जहाँ काफी फ्लड आया था, लोग परेशान हो रहे हैं। वहाँ के जानवरों के लिए बाहर से चारा लाना पड़ता है। लेकिन इसके लिए भी बैगन नहीं मिलते हैं। हम लोगों ने इस बात को मंत्री महोदय के सामने रिप्रेजेंट किया था और उन्होंने कहा था कि वह बैगन देंगे। लेकिन उनके वायदे के बाद भी बैगन नहीं मिलते हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय ने जो वादा किया था उसको पूरा करने का प्रयास करें।

जितनी भी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियाँ जाती हैं वह बरौनी से सीधे कटिहार होकर जाती हैं लेकिन उन में से एक भी सहरसा और पूर्णिया को मिलाने वाली नहीं है। सहरसा और पूर्णिया बैकवर्ड डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं और बार्डर एरिया पर हैं। इन जगहों के जिला मुख्यालय को मिलाने वाली कम से कम एक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी उधर से लाई जाय ताकि सहरसा और पूर्णिया के लोगों को सुविधा मिल सके।

कोसी एरिया की बात मैं करना चाहता हूँ। वहाँ एक ही तेज ट्रेन चलती है जिसका नाम है कोसी वैल्ट फास्ट पैसंजर। यह बन-बनखी जंक्शन से बरौनी आती है। कोसी फास्ट पैसंजर को जोगबनी पैसंजर का इंतजार मानसी जं० पर करना पड़ता है जिसमें जोड़ कर उसको बरौनी तक लाया जाता है। इस वजह से और जोगबनी पैसंजर के प्रायः लेट चलने से बरौनी में पटना के लिए समस्तीपुर दीनापुर एक्सप्रेस आम तौर पर नहीं मिल पाती है, नब्बे प्रतिशत कनेक्शन नहीं मिल पाता है। इसलिए मेरी प्रार्थना है कि उस गाड़ी को (कोसी वैल्ट फास्ट पैसंजर को) स्वतंत्र ट्रेन के रूप में बरौनी तक चलाया जाए ताकि पटना आने वालों को दिक्कत न हो। आप तो जानते ही हैं कि पटना बिहार की राजधानी है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि इस पर भी ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I want to mention one specific point. I know that the hon. Minister may not be able to give me a categorical reply immediately. The railwaymen throughout the country belonging to all the railways, northern, eastern, southern, central and other railways, have assured all support to Government in this hour of national peril. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly respond to the call of the railway employees who have withdrawn whatever agitation was there whether in Barauni or Gorakhpur or Allahabad-Kanpur division, in response to the call given to the nation by the hon. Prime Minister. In this light, I would request him to consider the cases in Barauni area. There was a certain break in service; that should be condoned. In

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

addition to that, some employees remain suspended still. That suspension should be withdrawn. In the case of Allahabad division, the drivers met the hon. Minister and assured him that they would do whatever possible to avoid a recurrence of such incidents in future. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly consider these things with the utmost sympathy. I know he is sympathetic. Let him rise to the occasion also like the railway workers and work like a team.

This country has to fight aggression and the railway worker is ready to fight. I hope the hon. Minister will give them an opportunity to start with a clean slate and withdraw all suspension cases. I assure him that they will try to avoid recurrence and that he will never get an opportunity to complain in future.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (पाली) : मैने पहले भी रेल मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना की थी कि पाली, फालना और रानी पर अंडर ब्रिज या ओवर ब्रिज बनाया जाए। इसका उन्होंने वादा भी किया था। उन्होंने कहा था कि यह जरूरी चीज है और अगर राजस्थान सरकार इसके लिए लिख देगी तो ये ब्रिज बना दिये जायेंगे। लेकिन अभी तक ये नहीं बन सके हैं। इसकी वजह से हजारों मुसाफिर और गाड़िया जो उधर से गुजरती हैं वे रुकी रहती हैं और लोगों को बहुत कठिनाई होनी है। यात्रियों को भी बहुत कठिनाई होनी है इसके बारे में उन्होंने वादा किया था कि यहां पर अंडर ब्रिज या ओवर ब्रिज जैसा भी होगा बनाये जायेंगे। लेकिन अभी तक वे नहीं बने हैं। न तो फालना में, न पाली में और न ही रानी में। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस ओर वह तुरन्त ध्यान दे।

SHRI D. BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar) : I support the motion whole heartedly on the condition that he should be sincere to what the hon. Minister said when he visited Assam. You know what Assam is. It is a strategic State. When hon. Minister recently visited Assam there was a demand for extending of B. G. line from Bongaigaon

to Gauhati.

Last time when war broke out with China we got a broad-gauge from Farraka to Bongaigaon. It has been taken to Jogigopa. This was not granted by the Railway Department but it was awarded by great Prime Minister Nehru. The Brahmaputra bridge also was awarded by late Shri Nehru when war broke out between China and India. This time I do not know how we had failed to catch attention of hon. Minister inspite of repeated requests to extend the broadgauge line from Bongaigaon to Gauhati. Upto Jogigopa at present it a branch line, that is only 18 miles to Bongaigaon. That has been extended to feed the military personnel in war time. The condition was that the BG line should be extended from Bongaigaon to Gauhati via Goalpara and Garo Hills.

But it was found that to construct a bridge at Jogigopa would involve a huge sum of money and it was, therefore, dropped. So, I do not find any reason why this missing link from Bongaigaon to Gauhati is not taken into consideration. After the recognition of Binglea Desh, the position of Assam is very difficult. At this juncture, I would request the Minister to consider extending the BG line from Bongaigaon to Gauhati. The other day hon. Minister said that unless Rs. 250 crores were available, he could not take up any new line or the extension of any line. But I was surprised to see that two BG lines are being opened in the South and one in Gujarat. When he has been able to find the money for these lines, I do not understand why he has dropped the idea of extension from Bongaigaon to Gauhati. It is only a question of Rs. 11 crores, which is not impossible to find for the Government of India. So, I request him to see that within the fourth plan, this extension is included.

About establishing the divisional headquarters at Rangiya, there is a clique among the officers. They have not taken up this work on the plea that the land may have to be filled up. In Assam, there is no area where the land is not required to be filled up. In other States, they do not have to spend money on filling up the land, but in Assam, even if I were to construct

a private house, the land has to be filled up. Therefore, filling up the land should not stand in the way of taking up any scheme in Assam. I hope the hon. Minister will consider this case.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : I am not calling those who have spoken on the main demands.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar) : The railway workers in this country have assured us that they will make any sacrifice necessary for fighting this war, unconditionally.

SHRI SHANKAR TEWARI (Etawah) Sir, from Etawah to Gwalior it is only 65 miles. It is a dacoit-infested area. There has always been the problem of Chambal Valley and the dacoit menace. There is hardly any proper road communication or railways. For a long time, we have been proposing that there should be a railway line from Kannauj (District Farukhabad) to Gwalior via Etawah. If that is not possible, Etawah which is on the main line can be easily connected with Gwalior, a distance of only 65 miles. If there is difficulty about that also, there can be at least a railway line between Etawah and Bhind, which is only a distance of 22 miles. It can easily be done. There are ravines of Yamuna, Chambal and Kwari. There is hardly any communication. Unless and until there is a railway line, heavy loads cannot be carried, because there is no proper road transport. Much of the dacoit menace can be easily solved if there is this rail link of 22 miles. You already have a narrow gauge line between Gwalior and Bind. This may be converted into metre gauge or broad gauge later and the whole problem can be solved. Otherwise a person from Etawah has to come to Agra, which is a distance of 76 miles and from Etawah to Gwalior thus would be 145 miles. If you construct a line of 22 miles between Etawah and Bhind much of the transport problem could be solved.

Secondly, there is a station called Bharthana near Etawah. Several representations have been made to the railways that the Toofan Express should stop there.

Bharthana is a big mandi. Now people wanting to go to Bombay or Delhi or Kanpur have to travel first 16 miles by road to reach Etawah and then get into the train. If you provide a stop for an express train this difficulty can be obviated. Toofan will be convenient from Bharthana to Etawah and vice versa for litigant public to attend works at Etawah Distt. Headquarters.

Of late, Kanpur station is full of beggars. The moment you peep out of the train you see three or four beggars. In fact, the whole platform consists of beggars. If you leave the compartment even for a short while your transistor or other baggage will disappear. How do the railway authorities permit so many beggars to enter the platform? This should be looked into by the railway authorities.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Appalanaidu.

*SHRI APPALANAIDU (Anakapalli) Mr. Speaker, Sir, while speaking on the Appropriation Bill (Rails) 1971 I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Shri Hanumanthaiya a few points. In my area between Vizianagram and Waltair we have three railway lines. One is the DBK Railway line. The other is the line from Calcutta to Waltair. In between Vizianagram and Waltair there is a level crossing at Pendurthi. But, because of the heavy traffic on the rail tracks, the level crossing is not of much use to the public. More important is the road running from Calcutta to Madras by the side of the railway lines.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. You have not given notice that you would be speaking in that language. I am not getting the interpretation properly.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : So far as I am concerned, I can follow his speech. Of course, the decision is left to you.

MR. SPEAKER : Then I can have a bit of rest so long as he is speaking.

SHRI APPALANAIDU : Sir, there is a heavy traffic on this road also. But, because of the frequent closure of the level crossing, transport bottlenecks are created on this road. I would, therefore, request

*The original speech was delivered in Telugu.

[Shri Appalanaidu]

the Hon. Railway Minister to take these factors into consideration and provide an over-bridge at this place so as to enable smooth flow of traffic.

श्री छद्म प्रताप सिंह (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय रेल मंत्री द्वारा प्रस्तुत रेलों के प्रयोजनार्थ वित्तीय वर्ष 1971-72 की सेवा के लिये भारत की संचित विधि में से कतिपय और राशियों के संदाय और विनियोग को प्रतिकृत करने वाले विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

लोक सभा के विगत मध्यावधि निर्वाचन में जनता ने सरकार को यह आदेश दिया था कि वह देश में सामाजिक और आर्थिक विषमताओं को समाप्त करे। इस दृष्टि से यह आवश्यक हो जाता है कि देश के जिस क्षेत्र में रेलवे लाइनों की कमी है, उसमें रेलवे लाइनों बिछाने की वरीयता प्रदान की जाये। साथ ही साथ इस बात की तरफ भी ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिये कि जिन क्षेत्रों में रेलों की अधिक व्यवस्था है, वहां से कुछ गाड़ियां हटाकर उन क्षेत्रों में चलाई जाएं, जहां रेलों की व्यवस्था बिल्कुल नहीं है और जहां गाड़िया कम चल रही है। माननीय सदन इस बात से सहमत होगा कि अगर कुछ लोग भूखे हों और अन्य लोगों को कुछ भोजन मिल रहा हो, तो ऐसी व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है कि सब लोगों को थोड़ा बहुत भोजन मिले। इसलिये जिन क्षेत्रों में गाड़िया बिल्कुल नहीं है, उनमें गाड़ियों के चलने की व्यवस्था वरीयता के आधार पर करनी चाहिये।

इस संदर्भ में मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। इस समय आसाम मेल, कालका मेल और तूफान मेल ये तीनों गाड़ियां मुगलसराय में इलाहाबाद होती हुई दिल्ली आती है। इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये कि इन गाड़ियों में से एक आसाम बाराणसी, प्रतापगढ़, रायबरेली, लखनऊ और कानपुर होते हुये या जौनपुर, सुल्तानपुर, लखनऊ और कानपुर होते

हुये और या मुगलसराय, फैजाबाद, बाराबंकी, लखनऊ और कानपुर होते हुये आये। ऐसा करने से उत्तर प्रदेश का बहुत बड़ा कल्याण होगा और लखनऊ को जो उत्तर प्रदेश की राजधानी है, एक मेल गाड़ी प्राप्त हो सकेगी। उत्तर प्रदेश के सदसद सदस्यों की तरफ से इसके लिये बहुत बड़ी मांग की जा रही है।

यह सही है कि माननीय मंत्री के सामने वित्तीय समस्या है। इसी कारण से मैं कोई नई गाड़ी चलाने की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ बल्कि इस समय जो गाड़ियां चल रही हैं, केवल उनमें कुछ संशोधन का सुझाव दे रहा हूँ।

मैं अन्त में मंत्री महोदय की परेशानियों के विषय में एक कविता पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ :

पड़े मुभीवत इतनी मुझ पर,
सभी मुमीबन कम हो जाएं,
थके न दिल की कभी जवानी,
चाहे सास खत्म हो जाये,
दुख की ज्वाला में तप तप कर,
इतना खून गर्म हो जाये,
पर्वत पर भी पांव धरूं,
तो वह भी जरा नम हो जाये।

यदि मंत्री महोदय इस इरादे के साथ काम करेंगे तो मेरा विश्वास है कि रेल मंत्रालय देश में सामाजिक और आर्थिक विषमताओं को समाप्त करने की दिशा में सफल होगा।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to highlight three or four points on this occasion.

I went through the reply given by Shri Hanumanthaiya to yesterday's debate but there he did not mention anything regarding the regularisation of casual labour. They are large in number and they expect that at least justice should be done to them. There are many vacancies, but these casual labourers are not given any chance of being absorbed as regular workers. There are workers who have been working there for more than 10 or 12 years.

Another important point which I want to mention here is that in the Chittaranjan Locomotive works there is a union which commands the confidence of the majority of workers but still that union is not recognised.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : There are other unions also. You should also plead for them.

SHRI DINEN BAATTACHARYYA : I do not say that you do not have your union there ; you have your union but the point is which union is the majority union. I can emphatically say that the union which commands the majority confidence is not recognised ; on the other hand, their leaders are being victimised in that suddenly they are served with transfer orders causing hardship not only to the leaders who are transferred but to the organisation itself. That is why I request the hon. Minister to look into that matter.

Another important point that I would like to make is this. The hon. Minister must have visited Howrah. In the rainy season, every year, the whole approach to the Howrah station and the whole railway yard remains water-logged and, at that time, for 3 or 4 or 5 days or for a week, the trains cannot run in that area. I do not know what is the reason for this that every year the same thing occurs. But the Railway Department does not take any serious note of that. So, I would humbly request you to kindly look into that.

Another very small matter is that there is one department, the Ash Handling Department, in Bandelia. There are about 200 employees. They do permanent nature of work. But still they are under a contractor. May I appeal to you to kindly see that the workers who are doing work of a permanent nature may be absorbed in your regular department ?

With these words, I would again appeal to you to kindly look into the Chittaranjan Locomotives' affairs where the union which can deliver the goods is still not recognised and their leaders are victimised.

श्री शिवनाथ सिंह (झुंझुनू) : अध्यक्ष

महोदय, मैं पहले भी निवेदन कर चुका हूँ और आज फिर निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे मंत्रालय की तरफ से जो राजस्थान की उपेक्षा हुई है और आज तक हो रही है उसमें मंत्री महोदय थोड़ा सुधार लाएं। जहां-तक ब्राडगेज लाइन का सवाल है, फास्ट ट्रेन का सवाल है, इलेक्ट्रिक ट्रेन का सवाल है या डीजल ट्रेन्स का सवाल है राजस्थान हमारे दूसरे प्रांतों के मुकाबिले में बहुत पीछे है और आज तक रेलवे मंत्रालय ने इसके ऊपर ध्यान नहीं दिया है। जब कभी इस बात की ओर रेलवे मंत्री का ध्यान हम आकर्षित करते हैं उनके यहां से एक ही जवाब "नो" आता है। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि वह अपना माइंड इसके बारे में थोड़ा चेन्ज करे और कही "येस" भी कर दिया करें। दस "नो" करे तो एक "येस" भी कर दिया करे।

मैं दो तीन बातें निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे यहां पहले सीकर और लोहारू के बीच में एक शटल ट्रेन चला करती थी। उसमें दिक्कत यह है कि मिर्फ दो ट्रेन्स हैं, सीकर से लोहारू को इवनिंग में आती है और मॉर्निंग अवस में जाती है, मिर्फ 5 घंटे के डिफरेंस से वह आती है, बाकी 19 घण्टे बहा के लोगों के लिये कोई ट्रेन नहीं है। इसलिये रेलवे मंत्रालय लोहारू से सीकर तक और दूसरी निजामपुर से रिंगस तक एक शटल गाड़ी चलाये जो कि पहले चला करती थी और बाद में वह बन्द कर दी गई है। दूसरी ओर मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान के झुंझुनू और सीकर जिले के कई हजार आदमी अहमदाबाद की मिल्स में काम करते हैं उनको अपनी फैमिलीज के लिये यहां आना पड़ता है और अपने बच्चों को यहां ले जाना पड़ता है। उनके लिये रिंग्स और फुलेरा दो जंक्शन पर गाड़ियां बदलनी पड़ती हैं। हमारी बार बार मांग यह रही है कि एक डायरेक्ट कोच रिंग्स से अहमदाबाद के लिये लग जाये तो यह कठिनाई हल हो सकती है। रेलवे मंत्रालय से निवेदन करते हैं तो वह कहते हैं कि इस गाड़ी की कैपेसिटी नहीं है।

[श्री शिवनाथ सिंह]

कैपेसिटी कैसे होगी जब डीजल इंजिन होगा। डीजल इंजिन कब होगा जब वह मांगेंगे और देंगे। डीजल इंजिन देने वाले वह है, मांगने वाले वह है। हम तो सिर्फ उनसे कोच के लिए मांग कर सकते हैं और वह हम बार बार करते आ रहे हैं।

इसी तरह से मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि यह जो ब्राडगेज की लाइन है हावडा से सिहारा तक लाइन बन रही है कापर प्रोजेक्ट के लिये, इस लाइन को चुरू तक एक्स्टेंड कर दे चिराव होकर तो बहुत बड़ा ट्रैफिक उधर से मिल सकता है। कापर प्रोजेक्ट के लिये डाबला में ही सामान एक्स्पॉर्ट नहीं होगा, दूसरी जगहों से जाएगा।

मैं एक बात यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि रेलवे मंत्रालय की जब मांग आती है तो रेलवे के सम्बन्ध में जितनी भी बातें हैं उनको डिस्कस करने के लिये बहुत कम समय मिलता है। हम कह सकते हैं कि कंमल्टेटिव कमेटी बनी है, लेकिन कंमल्टेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग सिर्फ नाममात्र के लिये होती है। केवल एक लकीर पीटी जाती है कि कंमल्टेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग हमने करली। जब भी हम वहां इकट्ठे होते हैं और बात करते हैं तो ऐसा लगता है जैसे हम तीसरी वक्ता के वच्चे हो और चेयरमैन साहब और मंत्री जी जैसे प्राइमरी स्कूल के अध्यापक हो, ऐसे ही हमें वह मिडव देते हैं और बोलने भी नहीं देते हैं। इसलिए इस तरह की जा मीटिंग हो वह इस प्रकार हो कि उनमें हम फुली डिस्कस कर सकें और कंमल्टेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग एक महीने या दो महीने में होती रहे क्योंकि सदन में कम समय मिलता है और मीटिंग में भी समय नहीं मिलता है तो रेलवे के बारे में हम पूरी बात डिस्कस नहीं कर पाते हैं आज रेलवे की स्थिति वह नहीं है जो पच्चीस या तीस साल पहले थी। आज हमारी इतनी मारी डिफिकल्टीज और प्राबलम्स हैं जो साल्व होनी चाहिए। बिना किसी डिस्कशन के वह

साल्व नहीं हो सकती। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि यह मीटिंग्स ज्यादा हों और यहां सदन में भी ज्यादा समय दिया जाय जिसमें हम अपनी मांगों को रख सकें।

अन्त में मैं अपनी दो मांगों को फिर दोहराना हू कि लोहारू से अहमदाबाद के लिये डायरेक्ट कोच लगे और सीकर से लोहारू तक शटल जो कि पहले चलती थी और अब बन्द हो गई है वह फिर दोबारा चलाई जाए जो कि मनिंग अबस में सीकर से लोहारू की तरफ आए और ईविनिंग अवर्स में जाए ताकि दिल्ली और बीकानेर के यात्रियों को वह कनेक्शन दे सकें लोहारू में। धन्यवाद।

श्री पन्नालाल बारूपाल (गंगानगर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस आगतकाल की स्थिति के अन्दर मैं कांई ज्यादा लम्बी चौड़ी मांग नहीं रखूंगा। लेकिन मैं अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र गंगानगर जो पाकिस्तान बॉर्डर से बिल्कुल लगता है के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। वहां लगभग आठ दस मंडिया है जो बॉर्डर से दस मील या 20 मील से दूर नहीं है। तो हमने राज्य सरकार के स्तर पर रेल मंत्री जी से यह मांग की थी कि जो वहां पर कपास और गल्ला पड़ा है उनके लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा बैगन द ताकि वह यहाँ से निकले और किसानों और व्यापारियों की समस्या का समाधान हो। मेरे ख्याल में रेल मंत्रालय ने और मंत्री महोदय ने उस पर ध्यान दिया होगा, लेकिन फिर भी मैं कहूंगा कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा बैगन यहाँ दिये जाए।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ, मेरे सामने बैठे साथी ने भी कहा है रेलवे में अस्थाई कैंजुअल कर्मचारियों की बहुत बड़ी समस्या है। मेरा यह निवेदन है कि रेलवे वर्कशाप बीकानेर में जो अस्थाई कर्मचारी काम कर रहे हैं उनको स्थई किया जाए क्योंकि वह दस-दस बारह बारह साल से काम कर रहे हैं। वह ओवर एज होते जा रहे हैं, फिर बाद में वह किसी पक्की नौकरी के लायक नहीं रहेंगे। इसलिए उनको स्थई किया जाए। तीसरी बात यह है कि

जिन्होंने वहां प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किए हैं उनको भी जगह दी जाए।

मैंने पहले यह मांग की थी कि हमारे जो तमाम मुकदमे हाईकोर्ट जोधपुर में चलते हैं वहां पर जाने के लिए कोई ठीक व्यवस्था नहीं है तो हनुमानगढ़ से एक रेल शाम को चले 5 बजे के बाद और सुबह दस बजे जोधपुर पहुंचे और फिर जोधपुर से 5 बजे के बाद चले और वह सुबह दस बजे हनुमानगढ़ पहुंचे। ऐसी व्यवस्था कर दें तो यह समस्या हल हो सकती है। लेकिन यह जो इनके एवरेज निकालने वाले हैं वह पता नहीं कैसे एवरेज निकालते हैं। अगर हमारे साथ बैठकर एवरेज निकालें तो हम उन्हें बता सकते हैं।

गंगानगर और दिल्ली के बीच में ब्राडगेज रेलवे में एक सीधी रेल चलाई जाये और उसमें एक कोच कलकत्ते का और एक बाम्बे का लगाया जाए। मैं यह चाहूंगा और मैंने यह मांग की थी कि हरियाणा एक्सप्रेस को हिसार से आगे हनुमानगढ़ तक ले जाया जाए। मेरा मतलब सीधे दिल्ली से नहीं है क्योंकि हमारे गंगानगर के लोगों को हरियाना से बहुत ज्यादा विज्ञेस होता है। इसलिये उनकी बहुत सारी समस्या का समाधान इससे हो जायेगा। मुझे आश्चर्य होता है और इनकी बुद्धि पर तरस भी आता है, वह इसलिये तरस आता है कि जो मांग में 20 साल से, 19 साल से कर रहा हूँ, रेलवे हॉलिटिंग स्टेशन के सम्बन्ध में मेरी जो डिमांड रही है वह हॉलिटिंग स्टेशन आज तक नहीं खुला और जो इनके अफसरों की चापलूसी करते हैं खुशामद करते हैं, उनके नये नये हॉलिटिंग स्टेशन खुल जाते हैं। हमको कहा जाता है कि आपकी मांग पर विचार किया जाएगा। यहां पर टाईम टेबल में नाम भी दे दिया जाता है और फिर भी यह उस नाम को काटकर कह देते हैं कि यह स्टेशन खुलने वाला नहीं है। मैंने कहा कि मेरा सामान और मेरी जायदाद गिरवी रख लीजिए, मैं आपको इंश्योरेंस देना चाहता हूँ कि वह स्टेशन घाटे में नहीं चलेगा। घाटे में चलेगा

तां हम दंगे। मैंने कहा था कि रंगमहल और पीलीबंगा के बीच में एक हॉलिटिंग स्टेशन खोल दिया जाय, वह मंजूर भी कर लिया था, टाईम टेबल में नाम भी आ गया था लेकिन बाद में कैंसिल कर दिया। इसी तरह जैतसर और मोहन नगर के बीच में एक स्टेशन बनाने की डिमांड हमने की थी। हनुमानगढ़ और धौली-पाल के बीच में एक स्टेशन बनाने की मांग थी। इसी तरह एक स्टेशन बनवाला और बुर्दासहवाला के बीच में होना चाहिये। इस प्रकार के मेरे यह कुछ सुझाव थे हॉलिटिंग स्टेशन खोलने के बारे में लेकिन खोले नहीं जा रहे हैं और जो थैलियां लेकर जाते हैं, इनको राजी कर लेते हैं उनके स्टेशन खुल जाते हैं। मैं ऐसे कई स्टेशनों के नाम बता सकता हूँ जो कि किसी योजना में नहीं थे और खुल गये। इसलिये कुछ रेल अधिकारियों की नीयत में मुझे संदेह है।

वैंडर्स के सम्बन्ध में मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ जो बहुत सीरियस और महत्वपूर्ण है। मैंने बार बार यह कहा कि स्टेशनों पर जिन वैंडर्स के नाम लाइसेंस होते हैं उसके परिवार और उसके नौकर पूरी तरह उसी पर आश्रित होते हैं। उसके मरने के बाद उसकी पत्नी या नौकर को उसे चलाने की इजाजत दी जाय जिसमें उनका भरणपोषण हो सके। वरना उसके मर जाने के बाद उसके लिये को ईज्रिया नहीं रह जाता। लेकिन वह नहीं मानते। कहते हैं कि कोई हाई पावर पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटी बनी थी श्रीमती तारकेश्वरी सिन्हा की अध्यक्षता में और उसने ऐसा निर्णय किया है। लेकिन मुझे गुप्त रूप से पता लगा है कि बड़े बड़े ठेकेदारों और लाइसेंस-होल्डरों से लाखों रुपये ये अफसर खा चुके हैं और वह उन बड़े बड़े आदमियों के पक्ष में ऐसा निर्णय कर देते हैं। यह बड़े शर्म की बात है।... (व्यवधान)...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरी बात गुनिए...

श्री पन्नालाल बाहूपाल : मैं एक मिनट और चाहता हूँ, भटिंडा में...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप आफिशियल गैलरी की तरफ अपना हाथ दिखाकर बोल रहे हैं, आप उनके बजाय मंत्री जी को कहें या मुझे कहें।

श्री पन्नालाल बारूवाल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे 20 साल का अनुभव है, ये मंत्री तो मिट्टी के महादेव और गोवर-गनेश हैं, करने वाले तो सब सैक्रेटरीज हैं। मेरे देखते देखते बीसियों मंत्री चले गये लेकिन ये महादेव ज्यों कि त्यों बैठे हुए हैं।

एक बात देखिये, कितनी गलत की है। बार्डर के ऊपर जो ट्रेज रात को चलती हैं उनमें लाइट नहीं होती है, लेकिन उन ट्रेनों में भी चेकिंग स्टाफ लगा दिया है। हालत यह है कि वे बेचारे दस-दस दिन तक घर नहीं आ सकते हैं, अपने घर के लिये कोई व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकते हैं। जब ट्रेनों में लाइट नहीं होगी तो वे चेकिंग क्या करेंगे। आप उनको क्यों परेशान कर रहे हैं, कृपा कर इस चेकिंग को खत्म कीजिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तीन चार लाइनों को डालने के लिये बड़ी सिम्पल डिमांड थी, हम बहस में उनके बाहर नहीं जा सकते थे, लेकिन आप लंगों ने तमाम बातों को लेना शुरू कर दिया ठेकों तक की बात इसमें आने लगी। बितना वक्त इसके लिये रखा था, उसको भी एक्सपैंड करना पड़ा।

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon)

Let the hon. Minister please open up that railway line. The hon. Member has been pleading and fighting for this line for the last 30 years. He is willing even to mortgage his house and land for this purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri R. S. Pandey should learn to keep silent also sometimes.

डा० कॅलास (बम्बई-दक्षिण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय जब श्री हनुमन्तैया जी ने रेलवे मंत्रालय की जिम्मेदारी ली तो उन्होंने यह घोषणा की

थी कि देश में जो क्षेत्र पिछड़े हुये हैं उन क्षेत्रों का ज्यादा ध्यान रखा जायगा। उन्होंने दूसरी घोषणा यह की थी कि जिन रेलों का सर्वे हो चुका है उन पर भी पूरा पूरा ध्यान दिया जाएगा। लेकिन मुझे यह कहते हुये बड़ा दुख होता है कि कोंकन रेलवे का सर्वे 12 साल पूर्व हो चुका था, लेकिन उस क्षेत्र में अभी तक सिर्फ आपटा तक ही रेलवे लाइन बनाई गई है। मैं आपको बता देना चाहता हूँ कि रत्नागिरी महाराष्ट्र का वह क्षेत्र है मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि देश का वह क्षेत्र है जिसने सबसे बड़ी संख्या में देश की रक्षा के लिये सिपाहियों का योगदान दिया है। मैं तो यह कहना भी पसन्द करूँगा कि रत्नागिरी ही वह क्षेत्र है जिसने देश को इंटर्-लिजेंन्शिया दिया है या अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ख्याति के व्यक्तियों को पैदा किया है। जब 10-12 वर्ष पूर्व कोंकन रेलवे का सर्वे हो चुका है तो फिर इसको पूरा क्यों नहीं किया जाता। हर वर्ष हमारे सामने बजट लाया जाता है लेकिन उस रेलवे को आधी दूरी तक ही बनाकर छोड़ दिया गया है। आज रत्नागिरी के लोग जब छट्टी पर आते हैं, सेना से लौटकर आते हैं तो उन्हें अपने क्षेत्र तक पहुँचने में चार चार दिन लग जाते हैं। मेरा मंत्री महोदय से यह अनुगोध है कि उन्होंने जो यह घोषणा की थी कि जिनका सर्वे पूर्ण हो चुका है उनको पहले किया जाएगा वे उसे पूर्ण करेंगे। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि वह मार्च या फरवरी में जब भी नया बजट लाएंगे, रत्नागिरी कोंकन लाइन को पूरा करने की तरफ ध्यान रखेंगे।

एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ—पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग के कारखाने सारे भारतवर्ष में चल रहे हैं। जहाँ जहाँ भी हम गये हमने देखा कि बैगन्ज न मिलने की बजह से उनका काम अटक जाता है। चार चार, छः छः महीने तक रेलवे से बैगन्ज नहीं मिलती हैं, न कच्चा माल लाने के लिये और न तैयार माल पहुँचाने के लिये। कहा यह जाता है कि बैगन्ज की कमी है। लेकिन मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि बम्बई, बिहार, कलकत्ता के व्यापारियों को

बैंगन मिल जाती है उनका माल समय पर लद जाता है और पहुंच जाता है। इसमें कहीं न कहीं कुछ गड़बड़ अवश्य है...

श्री ए० पी० शर्मा : बिहार को भी नहीं मिलती है, बैंगन मिलने की बजह से वहां फौडर की कमी हो रही है।

डा० कैलाश : लेकिन कुछ व्यक्तियों को घूस देकर मिल जाती है या किसी और कारण से मिल जाती है। जब उनको मिल सकती है तो पब्लिक अडरटैकिंग को भी अवश्य मिलनी चाहिए।

इन दो सुझावों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री नगेश्वर द्विवेदी (मछली शहर) : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी द्वारा प्रस्तुत बिल का समर्थन करते हुये उनको इस बात के लिये बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने रेलों के समय पर पहुंचने के बारे में जो शिकायत रहती थी, उसमें बहुत सुधार करवाया है। अब गाड़ियाँ अधिकांशतया अपने टाइम पर चलने लगी है।

मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान उत्तर रेलवे के जंचई स्टेशन की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ जहाँ पर पहले इस बात की शिकायत थी कि रेलों के लिये प्लेटफार्म की कमी थी, लेकिन अब वहां पर प्लेटफार्म बन चुका है, अब केवल लाइन को पार करने के लिये पुल को बढ़ा देने की आवश्यकता है। प्लेटफार्म के बन जाने के बाद भी यह कठिनाई अभी भी वहां पर बनी हुई है। मैं चाहूंगा कि प्लेटफार्म को इस्तेमाल में लाने के लिये पुल को प्लेटफार्म तक बढ़ा दें।

दूसरी बात—उत्तर प्रदेश में ईंट-भट्टा उद्योग बड़ा भारी उद्योग है। उसमें लाखों आदमी लगे हुये हैं, लेकिन बैंगन न मिलने से कोयले की ऐसी कमी हो जाती है कि उद्योग पर विशेष रूप से पिछले साल से बहुत संकट आया हुआ है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय बैंगन का इन्तजाम करें जिससे ये भट्टे, जो बहुत से आद-

मियों को काम दे रहे हैं, चलते रहें और उनको कोयला मुलभ हो सके।

तीसरी बात—पहले सुलतानपुर से हावड़ा एक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी चलती थी जो सुलतानपुर से जफराबाद के बीच में कोयरीपुर में भी खड़ी होती थी। बाद में उस गाड़ी को बन्द कर दिया गया, अब वह पुनः लखनऊ से हावड़ा चलने लगी है, लेकिन अब वह कोयरीपुर में खड़ी नहीं होती है। वहां के लोगों ने बार-बार सरकार से मांग की है लेकिन अभी तक उस गाड़ी को वहां खड़ा करने की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है। उस गाड़ी को वहां पर खड़ा करने की व्यवस्था करें। मैं मंत्री जी को पुनः इस बात के लिये बधाई देता हूँ कि जब से उन्होंने रेलवे को अपने हाथ में सम्भाला है, इसको काफी सुधार की दिशा में ले जाने का प्रयास किया है।

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय (सागर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी मारफत रेलवे मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देती हूँ और इस बिल का समर्थन करती हूँ। मैं रेलवे मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि मैं उस क्षेत्र से आती हूँ, सागर जिले से जिसको डकैती एरिया कहा जाता है। मैंने कई बार मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना की है कि सागर से छतरपुर, टीकमगढ़ तथा हरपालपुर तक रेलवे लाइन दी जानी चाहिये, क्योंकि वह डकैती एरिया है, वहां दिन-दहाड़े लोगों को लूट लिया जाता है। वहां पर कोई साधन नहीं है, कल-कारखाने नहीं हैं, जिनमें लोगों को काम मिल सके। वहां के जो पुत्राते जागीरदार बुन्देले थे, उनके पास सिवाय डकैती के दूसरा कोई काम नहीं है। अभी हाल में खोर्डे के घन्नालाल सेठ को उठा लिया गया है और 10 लाख रुपये की मांग कर रहे हैं। इसलिये मेरी प्रार्थना है कि सागर से छतरपुर, टीकमगढ़ तथा हरपालपुर को जोड़ दिया जाय। इससे डकैती की समस्या काफी हल हो जाएगी।

दूसरी बात—आन मद्रास और दक्षिण के लिये बहुत ज्यादा कबज उठा रहे हैं, उनकी

[श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय]

तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान दे रहे हैं, आपको सारा भारतवर्ष एकसा समझना चाहिये। हमारे प्रदेश भी रेलवे लाइन में बड़ी गड़बड़ है। कई बार हमने कहा है कि हमारे सागर में एक मंकगी-निया स्टेशन है, वहां पर पलटन उतरती है, इसके अलावा और भी बहुत से स्टेशन हैं जहां गाड़ी रुकती है, लेकिन लोगों को टिकट नहीं दिये जाते। कई बार वहां के स्टेशन मास्टरों ने हमसे कहा कि इसके लिये स्टाफ की व्यवस्था की जाये, आपके पास शिकायत मौजूद है, लेकिन आप हंस कर टाल देती हैं। इसलिये मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करती हूं कि वहां पर स्टाफ की व्यवस्था की जाये ताकि लोगों को टिकट मिल सकें।

इसमें कोई शक नहीं आपके कार्यकाल में रेलवे में काफी सुधार हुआ है, दस-दस साल से जो लोग एक ही जगह पर बैठे हुये थे, उनका तबादला हुआ है। इससे रेल प्रशासन में बहुत तरक्की हुई है। मैं चाहती हूं कि जब तक हमारा भारतवर्ष रहेगा तब तक आप का नाम भी रहे... (व्यवधान)... मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करती हूं कि महिलाओं की बातों पर आपको ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये क्योंकि बिना महिलाओं के यह देश चल नहीं सकता है।... (व्यवधान)... मैं कई बार आपके सामने सुझाव रखनी हूं लेकिन आप हंस कर टाल देते हैं। मैं आशा करती हूं कि आप मेरे सुझावों पर उचित ध्यान देने की कृपा करेंगे।

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय (मंदसौर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मन्त्री जी का ध्यान दो तीन बातों की ओर आकषित करना चाहता हूं। मध्य प्रदेश में बस्तर और नीमाड़ आदिवासी क्षेत्र हैं जहां पर रेल लाइनों की बहुत कमी है। जगदलपुर में रेल लाइन का निर्माण, जिसके लिये मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने भी प्रस्ताव किया है, सम्भवतः आपके विचाराधीन है। इसी प्रकार से इन्दौर-दोहद रेल लाइन के निर्माण का प्रश्न कई बार विचारार्थ आया

उस पर विचार भी किया गया परन्तु उसके निर्माण की दिशा में अभी तक कोई भी कदम नहीं उठाया गया है। इसके साथ ही साथ एक महत्वपूर्ण बात की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान और आकषित करना चाहता हूं और वह यह कि आप स्थान स्थान पर मीटरगेज लाइन को ब्राडगेज लाइन में बदलने की बात करते हैं। मैं आपका ध्यान आकषित करना चाहता हूं कि अजमेर से लेकर खंडवा तक तीन सैनिक छावनियां हैं जिसमें एक सैनिक छावनी मऊ है। इसी प्रकार से नीमच भी सी. आर. पी. का एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है तथा नसीराबाद भी बहुत बड़ी सैनिक छावनी है। इन तीनों सैनिक छावनियों को आवश्यकतानुसार जो रेल यातायात की सुविधा प्राप्त होनी चाहिये वह सुविधा अभी प्राप्त नहीं है। इसके अतिरिक्त वहां की स्थानीय जनता को भी बड़ी असुविधा हो रही है। यदि आप इन रेल लाइन को ब्राडगेज में परिवर्तित करें तो मऊ नीमच और नसीराबाद को जो सैनिक महत्व के स्थान हैं, बड़ी रेल लाइन से जोड़ सकते हैं और इस प्रकार से उस क्षेत्र के महत्व को देखते हुये वहां की आवश्यकता को आप पूरा कर सकते हैं। इसी प्रकार से एक गुलामखी रेल लाइन आपके विचाराधीन है यदि उसका निर्माण भी आप समय पर पूरा करें तो वहां के जनता के हित की दृष्टि से वह बड़ा लाभदायक होगा। इसके अतिरिक्त उज्जैन से आगरा तक दम भील की रफ्तार से चलने वाली जो मीटरगेज की लाइन है उसको यदि आप ब्राडगेज में कन्वर्ट करेंगे तो उससे जनता को बड़ी सुविधा पहुंचेगी। इन्हीं तीन बातों की ओर मैं मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान आकषित करना चाहता हूं।

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार (टीकमगढ़) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मन्त्री महोदय ने जिस प्रकार से इस रेल मंत्रालय का कार्य संभाला है उसके लिये मैं उनको धन्यवाद देता हूं। पहले रेल गाड़ियां जो बहुत केट चलती थीं वह अब कुछ टाइम से चलने लगी हैं। मैं आपके द्वारा मन्त्री महोदय को केवल दो तीन सुझाव देना चाहता

हैं। सबसे पहली बात यह है कि झांसी मानिकपुर के बीच में जब से यह रेल लाइन बिछी होगी, केवल एक पसेंजर गाड़ी मुबह आती है और शाम जाती है। ग्वालियर से लेकर पूरे बुंदेलखंड क्षेत्र से हावड़ा के लिए काफी मछलिया और हरी सब्जिया जाती है लेकिन गाड़ी लेट हो जाने से मानिकपुर में वह ट्रैन भिन्न हो जाती है। पेरिशेविल बेजिटेबिलज की बजह से रेलवे डिपार्टमेंट को हर साल लाखों रुपये कम्पेन्सेशन में देने पड़ते हैं। हम बराबर इस बात की माग करते आ रहे हैं कि आप या तो आसाम रेल को टूटला से डाइवर्ट कर दें, सीधे, आगरा, ग्वालियर, झांसी, मानिकपुर होकर डाइवर्ट कर दें और अगर ऐसा नहीं कर सकते हैं तो एक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी झांसी से बनारस तक ले जाए ताकि जिनने भी हम बीच के पसेंजर है या तीर्थ यात्री हैं उनको जाने के लिए सुविधा हो जाये।

दूसरी बात यह है कि झांसी मानिकपुर लाइन पर एक निवाड़ी स्टेशन है वहां में जिला हेडक्वार्टर 50 मीटर है। इस जिले का पूरा व्यापार वहीं से होता है। इस साल वहां पर करीब एक लाख क्वीटन गेहूँ खराब गया क्योंकि वहां पर कोई शेड नहीं था और दो महीने तक वह खुले में पड़ा रहा। वहां पर गेहूँ काफी पैदा होता है। वहां पर बड़ी मात्रा में फटिलाइजर भी खुले में पड़ा रहा अक्तूबर के महीने में और कोई शेड न होने की बजह से उसको काफी नुकसान पहुंचा। इसलिये मेरा निवेदन है कि यह एक छोटा सा मामला है, आप निवाड़ी स्टेशन पर एक शेड बनना दें।

इसी प्रकार से एक दूसरा अगला स्टेशन टहगा स्टेशन है। मानिकपुर से जो पसेंजर जाती है। वह रात को वहां 10-11 बजे पहुँचती है और जो मानिकपुर के गाड़ी मुबह आती है वह तीन बजे आती है। इस तरह रात को हजारों पसेंजर वहां पड़े रहते हैं। वहां पर तीसरे दर्जे का विश्रामालय न होने के कारण उनको बड़ी कठिनाई होती है। मेरा निवेदन है

कि वहां पर तुरन्त एक तीसरे दर्जे का विश्रामालय बना दिया जाये।

तीसरी बात मुझे यह निवेदन करनी है कि झांसी जंक्शन पर जो कैंजुअल लेबर काम करते हैं उनसे अधिकारीगण 6 महीने काम करा कर 15-20 दिन के लिये उनकी सर्विस ब्रेक कर देते हैं ताकि उनकी सर्विस रेगुलर न हो सके और परमानेन्सी के लिये वे क्लेम न कर सकें। इस बात की तरफ भी सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिये। इसके अतिरिक्त वहां के अधिकारी कैंजुअल लेबर से पैसा भी मांगते हैं। जिनको वे दोबारा रखते हैं उनको 30-35 रुपये महीना देना पड़ता है अन्यथा वे दूसरों को रख लेते हैं। इन बातों की तरफ भी सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

आखिर में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश एक पिछड़ा इलाका है और शायद पिछड़ा रहेगा भी। हम बराबर माग करते आ रहे हैं कि ललितपुर छनरपुर होकर खजुराहो से बादा एक रेलवे लाइन डाली जाये, सन 1930 में उसका सर्वे भी हुआ था लेकिन सरकार ने अभी तक उस पर कोई विचार नहीं किया है। मैं सरकार से विनम्र निवेदन करता हूँ कि वह इन तमाम बातों पर ध्यान देने की कृपा करें।

श्री रामचन्द्र बिकल (बागपत) अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो अनुपूरक अनुदानों की माग हम सदन के सम्मुख उपस्थित हैं उसमें कुछ छोटी लाइनों को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तित करने के लिये मांगनीय मंत्री जी ने धन मांगा है। उन्होंने कुछ उखड़ी हुई लाइनों को फिर से चाल करने के लिये भी धन मांगा है। लेकिन मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि शाहदरा-महारनपुर रेलवे लाइन के बारे में यहाँ भी और अन्य स्थानों पर भी मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दिलाया गया है। शाहदरा से सहारनपुर का 160 मील का एरिया बहुत ही उपजाऊ है तथा सैनिक दृष्टि से भी यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण इलाका है। वहाँ की जनता की बड़ी भारी मांग होने के बावजूद इस बजट में भी उस रेलवे लाइन के

[श्री रामचन्द्र विकल]

बाजे में कोई चर्चा नहीं की गई है। यह रेलवे लाइन पहले एक प्राइवेट कंपनी द्वारा चलाई जाती थी। इसको उखाड़ने वाले जो लोग थे उन्होंने लिखित रूप में मंत्री महोदय को दिया है कि हम इसको फिर से चालू करने के लिये सैयार हैं। गृह मंत्री श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त की नोटिस में हम इस बात को लाये। हमने अनेक बार मंत्री महोदय से कहा कि आप स्वयं या इस सदन की एक सर्वदलीय समिति के द्वारा शाहदरा से सहारनपुर तक की जनता की जो कठिनाइयाँ हैं उनको कम से कम जाकर अध्ययन तो कर लें और उसके बाद अगर आपको महसूस हो कि इस इलाके में रेलवे लाइन के उखाड़ जाने से वहाँ की बहुत सी व्यापारिक मंडियों, अनेक स्कूल कालेज के विद्यार्थियों और दिल्ली जो देश की राजधानी है वहाँ हर रोज आने वाले हजारों कर्मचारियों का बहुत कठिनाई है तो आप उस कठिनाई को दूर करने का प्रबन्ध करें। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूँगा कि इस रेलवे लाइन को या तो केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं चलाये, या कोआपरेटिव बेसिस पर चलाये और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार भी इसमें हिस्सा करना चाहती है या फिर वहाँ जिन्होंने उखाड़ने का ठेका लिया था उन्होंने भी कुछ शर्तों के साथ कंपनी बनाकर इस रेलवे लाइन को चलाने के लिये सरकार के पास लिख रखा है। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि न तो केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं ही इसको चलाना चाहती है और न दूसरे लोगों को सहयोग देकर ही इसको चालू करना चाहती है। मैं उस इलाके की तरफ से मंत्री जी को ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर इस रेलवे लाइन के उखाड़ जाने से जनता में भारी असंतोष है। देश की इस संकटकालीन अवस्था में ला ऐण्ड आर्डर को देखते हुये कि वहाँ पर जनता में कोई असंतोष की भावना पैदा न होने पाये, इस रेलवे लाइन को सरकार जिस रूप में भी चाहे—या तो प्राइवेट कंपनी के द्वारा, या स्वयं या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की सहायता से इसको पुनः तुरन्त चालू करने की कृपा की जाये

मैं मंत्री महोदय से विनम्र शब्दों में केवल यही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ।

11.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given more time than I promised to get from the Business Advisory Committee. I am very happy that those people who were pending on the list are completed now. The hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : The hon. Member Shri Yadav who began the debate referred to the late running of trains.

MR. SPEAKER : I forgot to give a chance to Shri Matha Gowda. He can ask a question. He will be the only exception.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : It is true that in the eastern region we have not been able to attain punctuality to the desired extent. The punctuality drive initiated by the railway administration has succeeded in every zone except the eastern region. I have already stated the reasons. It is the crimes on the Railways that are responsible mostly for this delay. The incidence of alarm chain pullings is great, I have given the figures. Therefore, it is not purely the railways that are to be blamed for the late running in this region. Even so the punctuality in the eastern region has improved to the tune of 20 per cent. Before we initiated the drive, the punctuality was only about 45 per cent. It has now reached about 60 per cent. In the other zones the punctuality has reached 95 per cent. That does not mean that all the trains run to 95 per cent punctuality, but that most of the trains in the other zones, especially through trains, run on time, except in the case of some accident or other event which is not under the control of the railway administration. Therefore, I assure the hon. Member that the aim of the railway administration is to secure punctuality even in the eastern region. If perfect punctuality is to be maintained in this region, the State Government and every one concerned have to do their utmost for the purpose of preventing these

crimes on the railways.

So far as Assam Mail is concerned, I have already replied yesterday. I have now come to know that this is not an easy matter. There is difference of opinion in this subject between the representatives of North Bihar and South Bihar. I will try, according to the advice of my senior friend Shri Tiwary, to sort things out so as to bring satisfaction to both.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : What about equitable distribution ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : Equitable distribution is a matter in which every one of us is agreed. That is why I said yesterday that every Member who makes a demand and says that there is step motherly treatment in regard to his State has to see the map of India and come to a conclusion on an impartial basis.

SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH : That is why we say there should be equitable distribution.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : So far as wagons are concerned, it is true that there are some difficulties. I have been taking three steps. One is to manufacture more wagons. The second is again in regard to the eastern region where parts of wagons are stolen and thus wagons are immobilised. We have been able to persuade the West Bengal Government to take stringent steps against those thieves and receivers of stolen property. I am sorry to say that the same earnestness is not being exhibited in Bihar. I hope that Bihar also will take steps for this purpose.

Shri S. M. Banerjee made an appeal to me to be responsive to the demands of labour. I said yesterday in all sincerity that when all of you made common cause with the Government and declared that there is only one party and one leader, that has created a lasting and permanent impression on my mind. Hon. Members may be aware that some labour leaders have written to me to convene a meeting. I have consulted some labour leaders, and I will consult others also, and we may

be able to meet and resolve all the differences that can be resolved. Only one reservation I make. I do not mind strikes and other demonstrations, they are, in the nature of things, sometimes inevitable, but I beg of them not to interfere in cases of corruption. I know there are several cases where corrupt officials and workers want to take shelter under union leadership. In the rest of the area I am perfectly willing to discuss all matters and resolve them in one or two weeks.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I assure you, we shall never support corrupt people. You get an assurance from Mr. A. P. Sharma.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Not only in future, in the past also we have never supported corrupt people. I want the minister to get an assurance from Mr. Banerjee that he will not support those who dislocate the working of the railways. (Interruptions).

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY : On Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, 2nd October, 500 workers of the N.E. Railway Signal Workshop have been removed from service. For 13 years they have served the railways. The Minister should do something about it.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : Hon. members have made suggestions regarding running of new trains, conversion of lines and stoppage of through trains. These matters I have dealt with yesterday. It is impossible for me to give any assurance. It is a matter limited by resources of speed of the train. Also, consideration has to be paid to efficiency of railway administration. Even when I go on tours, I receive a number of requests for stoppages of a number of through trains. If this is done, no train will be able to run fast. Subject to this overall consideration, I will see how far the stoppage requests can be complied with.

Mr. Tewari wanted the menace of baggers to be stopped in Kanpur and other places. It is my intention to make passengers travel without this botheration. I will issue instructions accordingly.

[Shri K. Hanumanthaiya]

One or two members, including Mr. Appa Naidu, referred to road over/under bridges being built at appropriate places. This is exactly my plea to State Governments. I made an announcement in my budget speech that we will take up this programme very seriously and I earmarked a certain sum for this purpose. I sent letters in June itself to all State Governments to send me the list of over/under bridges they need. Only one or two States have replied. I wrote a letter last week reminding them that the money is likely to lapse.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : The States are hesitating because 50 per cent of the cost should be met by the States.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : It is not possible to waive it and it will never be possible in future. He does not know the scheme. I will discuss it with him privately. In fact, this money comes out of the railway safety fund. It is not the State Government who have to bear the burden.

They have to do the preliminary work like acquisition of land, making of roads on either side of the bridge or railway track. So, he has not understood the scheme correctly. Once he knows the full scheme I am sure he will support me and not any other proposal.

One hon. Member referred to Sultanpur-Howrah line and water-logging at Howrah Station. I will look into that and do whatever I can.

Lastly, the hon. lady Member said that I do not take her seriously. Hereafter I will take her seriously.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : He has not said anything about casual labour.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : The labour will take care of itself.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1971-72 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2, and 3, the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause, 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I am happy that we have been able to find 1½ hours for this Bill. I hope there is no other Bill coming from him.

11. 13 hrs.

MANIPUR (HILL AREAS) DISTRICT COUNCILS BILL—(Contd).

MR. SPEAKER : We will resume the further discussion of the Manipur (Hill-Areas) District Councils Bill. Shri Tombi Singh will continue his speech.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Speaker, yesterday I mentioned in my opening remarks that the views expressed by some of my hon. friends, like Shri Basumatari, came as a complete shock and surprise to us. We are totally opposed to the proposal of merger of Manipur Hill Areas, or any part

of it, rather even an inch of it, with Nagaland or any other neighbouring State for the matter of that. I notice that Shri Basumatari is not here; I wish he were here. I would like to inform him that charity begins at home. He himself belongs to the tribal areas of Assam. He himself represents some very big tribes. Let him begin his charity from his own district. I think he expects that I should propose the merger of his districts with Nagaland. It would be very unfortunate and I am not going to do that because I know the full significance of the Naga extremist movement now. They are now practising the modern theory of expansionism in this difficult area. Operating from Pakistan and China borders these extremists are creating difficulties in the matter of law and order and they are trying to extend their influence to Assam and other parts of the neighbouring areas. In spite of my due respect to Shri Basumatari, it is very unfortunate that he is perhaps slumbering in his own profound ignorance of what is going on in his neighbouring area. To quote the English saying, he was next to the Church but farthest from God. He was very much profoundly ignorant of things around in his neighbouring areas.

I would like to say with all the emphasis at my command that Manipur will oppose any proposal to integrate even an inch of it with any neighbouring area, specially the neighbouring Nagaland State, with all our affection and regard for the Nagaland State and we wish the State all prosperity. In the last few years we have been seeing very uncalled for slogans calling for the merger of these areas. Perhaps, these friends are just aggraving on the territorial, emotional and cultural integrity of the people of Manipur, whether they are in the hills or they are in the valley. They have failed to understand the problem that is represented in this very difficult border unit.

The entire background of the Bill that has come up before us for discussion and also the series that would be following this Bill, the North-eastern Reorganisation Bill and various other measures that will come up, has indicated very clearly, beyond any speck of doubt, that the Government of India under the very able leadership of the

Prime Minister have realised the situation there and there should be no going back upon it. It is a waste of time to entertain further departure from the pattern that has been evolved after so much of serious thought applied to it.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to certain remarks made by my hon. friend from Tripura. I am in agreement with many things which he said but I was extremely surprised when he mentioned that India was not a nation at any time in history. The national boundaries might have been different from the present ones at different times, but then I would like to make this observation. I am not myself a historian but I belong to an area where different people, different cultures, different languages and dialects prospered together and even then we claimed to be one ethnic group. Whatever might have been the administrative pattern before the British or the Muslim period, one thing was very clear that our cultural and national boundary was not protected under one administration, under one king but there was a very spontaneous cultural and emotional boundary affiliating all the units. They might have been under different kings and under different names of States but there was such a spontaneous affiliation. In the course of thousands of years our sub-continent been enjoying this oneness of culture and emotional integrity and oneness of spiritual growth that has continued till today. We are proud to belong to such a country which has evolved through serious crises and stresses and at this critical period of our history we should not even for one moment have even a doubt whether we were a nation, whether we have been one or many. We have been one in spite of many differences, languages and administrative boundaries. We have been one culturally and in spiritual development.

Regarding the clauses and the details of the Bill that we are discussing today I do not have much to say. May be, for administrative reasons and other exigencies certain provisions have been made.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the erstwhile Union Territories Act in which certain provisions were made and tried for a few years in Tripura

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

and in Manipur specially. In spite of the provisions made—similar provisions have been maintained, almost copied in this Bill I do not consider this will be any handicap in the efficient administration. But only one warning has to be sounded. I hope, the hon Minister will note that in the case of linking up of the District Councils with the State Government, a proper care has to be made that good officers who belong to Government cadre of a State go to the District Councils to guide the administration of the State and District Councils with efficiency and also to bring about much needed harmony in those areas. There is no limit to the love for autonomy, to the love for liberty. Once it is given, it is ever-growing. Therefore, we can analyse this view by slightly referring to the actual geographical position and the justification of these six hill districts in the area in spite of the smallness of the area. If we divide 8000 sq. miles by 6, each district will get on an average about 1300 sq. miles. The density of population on an average will be about 45 in 1 sq. mile. Naturally, there will be scanty population and small villages will be far in between and each district will have, on an average, about 60,000 population, may be more or less. So, each district, particularly, from the point of view of population and also from the point of view of regional development and economic resources, may be regarded as small.

But then considering the thousands of years that have been wasted under so many administrations, in respect of communications, in respect of education, in respect of so many other development measures, the representatives of the people should receive their adequate amount of rights and they should be able to exercise these rights through their representatives at least in the sphere of their development.

I do not propose that these measures of safeguards, these measures of autonomy, whatever we call them, should continue in Manipur or in any part of the country for years to come. There should be a limit and now, we hope, that at one stage, the country will be prosperous and the whole population will be, more or less, at one

stage of development so that no section, no area, will need any special protection. So long as we have not reached that stage, these areas require a departure for protection in the matter of political rights and development rights, some departure from the normal yardsticks.

In this connection, we would like to support it and we would invite the whole House to support the measures that have been introduced here. It was in this area, in some of the areas at least, that China and Pakistan tried to infuse the anti-national feeling and they could even train our youths and, during Gen. Ayub's time, through the eastern wing, they could even get away a large number of youths. Even from the valley they took away. Now, in the present context, Ayub Khan and the military junta of Pakistan must be laughing at themselves that they tried that. But now we remember, as we introduced this measure, that it was in these areas where the pace of development has been slow, communication has been very poor, facilities were poor in those areas. Thus, the hostile neighbours could take advantage and could take the whole of our young men and women and get them trained in anti-national hostile activities. If we decentralise and increase the pace of administration in these areas which could be done in abundance through these measures, we can look forward that there will be even very quick improvement in the law and order situation in the hill areas.

Another word of warning that I wanted to sound which I could not make yesterday is this, about the services. When the Territorial Council was experimented in Tripura and Manipur, we could not give officers, efficient people because it was declared by the then administration in Tripura as well as in Manipur that henceforward whoever is going to the Territorial Councils would be considered as on foreign service. They will not enjoy any protection and they go on their risk. So, they could not get any good officers. Now, these District Councils, as we do not aim at furthering separation between Council and Council and between the valley and the hills and between other parts of the country and the hill areas, should be allowed to come nearer and nearer to one another and the works are done in a quicker pace.

Then we must be very clear about this that the State Government as well as the Home Ministry which is the nerve centre and which is the guiding authority should make clear rules and issue instructions that officers must be encouraged and the best of officers must be encouraged with all the facilities given to go to these undeveloped areas so that development as also improvement of these areas must be made at the quickest possible pace.

I do not have much more to say than the only point that I would like to make before I conclude and that is that Manipur, standing in the Far-East and on the eastern frontier of the country, should be strengthened and no attempt should be made to separate the valley from the hills. No attempt should be made to dismember Manipur by taking away a chunk of the area either from the hills or from the valley and get it integrated in any neighbouring State because Manipur has continued for the last thousands and thousands of years as one unit, hill and valley and the people, and I do not know how far I have been successful in making this point yesterday. The people are more or less of the same stock. The difference is only on the basis of religion and also on the basis of the facilities of communication. Otherwise, we do not have basically two different types of people. The people there, either in the hills or in the valley, belong to the same stock, Mongoloid stock, anthropologically and by customs. About customs, a very important clause has been provided in this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : I am concluding.

These District Councils are empowered to protect their customs and their rites which are traditionally theirs.

Each tribe, however small it may be, has its own dialect. There are as many as about 200 dialects in the hill areas of Manipur. Each tribe has great respect for its dialect, its customs and hand-

loom and handicrafts and type of cloth. Each tribe uses its own peculiar handloom cloth at the time of rituals. From this you can see how much sentimental they are in protecting their customs and manners. They have been isolated from the rest of the world including the nearest neighbour for thousands of years and so they have the deepest sentiments for their customs and manners. So, my fear is that unless protection is given to them, the majority of those who outnumber them will be wiping out their culture and their everything. So, protection has to be given to their way of life and their customs and manners.

Moreover, the handloom and handicrafts that we see in Manipur are not of accidental growth. They have grown there in the course of thousands of years. One secret why Manipur handloom cloth of the valley as well as of the hills stands the test of mill cloth is this. Especially the women-folk of Manipur either in the hills or in the plains are very conservative about the dress and they use the handloom cloth in any feast or function. In fact, practically there is no weaver class in Manipur. All Manipuris, beginning from the small man up to the king are weavers. The whole family is a weaver. The tradition has continued and that is why the Manipuri handlooms can even today compare well with mill cloth. The tribal traditions in the hill areas as well as the tribal areas and the tribal customs are associated with handicrafts and handlooms because of this reason. So, we have to see that these things are protected.....

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : There is Manipuri dance also.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : I thought that I should not waste my time by referring to that, because it is already familiar to all. Each tribe has got its own dance which is more or less developed. Each tribe has got its own tribal dances and classical dances.

In spite of the fact that Manipur has only a small population and it is small in size, yet from the economic point of view, this area has to be recognised as an essential and integrated part of the country. We recall today with satisfaction and with

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

gratitude the fact that many years back, Panditji had recognised this, and he had written very sympathetically about it that in spite of its smallness, Manipur should not be merged with any other State in its neighbourhood and that the individuality of Manipur should be protected.

It is in this context that I support this Bill, and I am eagerly looking forward to the passing of the other measure that has been introduced today, namely the North-Eastern Areas Reorganisation Bill. If these Bills come into effect, the eastern zone will be developing fast and will be participating in the progress of the nation. This will also serve as a lesson to our hostile neighbours who did not care for the plight of their own people in the nooks and corners but tried to create hostilities in those undeveloped areas.

I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister for having brought forward this measure.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member's speech is so educative and informative, but we do not have enough time for it now.

SHRI P. K. DEO : He was a Minister also before.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I rise to support the Bill. I think this is the first time that an attempt is made, and seriously made, to give something to the tribals of Manipur who have a glorious tradition and culture. I am sure the district councils elected on the basis of adult franchise will serve their purpose to great extent.

It has been stated in the statement of objects and reasons that it is considered desirable that the people in the hill areas should be more closely associated with the development of these areas. With my little knowledge of Manipur, I have visited the place only when, when I could see that beautiful place—I got an idea, which has been corroborated by other friends coming from that area, that the tribals are being exploited by outsiders, big businessmen. The Manipuris have developed their art and

beautiful handicraft. We know the Manipuri dresses ; their handicrafts are famous in the country. But what do they get in return ? Big businessmen from Calcutta and Assam go there and collect the whole things by giving them a paltry sum even though the Manipuris have spent days and nights in getting those beautiful pieces woven. Thus they are exploited by outsiders to the maximum. I hope that when the district councils are constituted, this will stop ; even otherwise, Government should see that this exploitation is put a stop to.

Even in Expo 70 and in other exhibitions, the handloom products of Manipur which were exhibited have been highly appreciated. I know even in foreign countries some ladies who have a fancy for Manipuri dresses go in for these. They were captivated by the Manipuri dance, which is one of the oldest dances of this country.

So I would like to know from the hon. Minister what positive steps have been taken to develop that particular area. Manipur must be developed. After the formation of the district councils, certain taxes will be levied a tax on professions and other taxes. But will that really give some relief or help in the development of that area? Unless the Government of India help for some time to come the State of Manipur even after it is granted statehood, Manipur cannot be developed. It has potentialities for development. There are many places of sight-seeing importance. Things can be developed there. It is high time the Government thought seriously about the development of Manipur and Tripura economically in the larger interest of the integrity of the country.

I listened very carefully to the speech of Shri Tombi Singh who comes from that area. He mentioned many points. They should be considered in all seriousness. But I have a feeling that once statehood is granted, they will be asked to run their State with meagre resources. Unless resources are developed and industries are established, the State will be dependent on the Central Government and they may suffer because of that dependence.

So let the Minister clarify what positive steps have been taken to develop Manipur. After the establishment of Bangla Desh, there will be some relief for the people of Tripura because it is closely linked with Bangla Desh. But the same facilities will not be available to the people of Manipur. There is the question of distance. The distance is so much and they will not be benefited merely because Bangla Desh has been established.

But it is not so with regard to Manipur to that extent. I would, therefore, while supporting the formation of district councils under this Bill, like the hon. Minister to tell us what are the positive steps which have been taken by the Government to stop the exploitation of the tribals there and to take the goods that they manufacture at a reasonable price more for export purposes and also for internal consumption.

The small scale industries should be developed in that area. I am sure the Government will do it ungrudgingly because, as was very ably pointed out by my hon. friend, the Chinese influence is there to some extent and even the influence of Pakistan who tell them that those areas should be seized from India. But these tribal people of Manipur as in other States like Tripura and Meghalaya, stuck to their guns, and as for the way in which they patiently waited for the grant of Statehood on them, unlike some neighbours who wanted to secede from the country sometime ago, I must congratulate them, especially at the time of this emergency, when we are being attacked by our hostile enemies, the military dictatorship of Pakistan and also when there is a fear of our being attacked by another treacherous enemy, the neighbouring Chinese, we should see that all these people in the areas of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya are fully satisfied. There should be no dissatisfaction there; no discontent there. For that matter, even if some States were to suffer, these border States should never suffer, and they should be developed to their fullest capacity so that they are able to defend our borders as and when necessary.

SHRI PAOKAI HAOKIP (Outer Manipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill which is being discussed at the moment is one of the two Bills introduced in this august House

for the territory of Manipur. I congratulate the Prime Minister and the Minister of State, Shri Pantji, for the pains they have taken and the sympathy they have shown in this matter.

So far as the Bill granting autonomy to the hill areas of Manipur is concerned, it is one of continuation of the series of measures that have been taken by the Center for the protection of the tribal people in that region. This Bill also, I am proud to say, is concerned with the section of Indian tribal population living in that part of Manipur. This Bill, for the first time, is introduced for the continued growth and progress of the people of that region.

In the Bill itself, it is mentioned that it is to provide an opportunity to the tribal people to come into contact more adequately with the developmental activities. So far as the development of that area is concerned, I wish to say that the situation obtaining today in regard to the development is not a very happy one. It was more unhappy before the creation of the five districts.

There were so many reasons for this backwardness, such as the activities of some persons from Nagaland in the course of their movement. Those activities stood in the way of normal development. At the same time because of the limited power granted to the Government of Manipur under the Union Territories Act of 1963, there was some difficulty in the way of improvements in that area. All these things contributed to the backwardness of Manipur. One should be happy to know that since the division of Manipur into a number of districts, there had been some progress. When there were no districts, administration in the hill areas especially was very slow. No proper offices were there and communication was bad. All those facilities were absent. Since the creation of the districts communications had improved along with the other things. Today there is some progress in the hill areas.

I consider this Bill to be one of the important measures, a sort of a security measure to protect the interests, customs and culture of the tribal people. To be frank the tribal people had to experience some difficulties. I referred to the activi-

[Shri Paokai Haokip]

ties of some anti-social elements. I do not want to say hostile elements—which have been standing in the way of progress. But the Government did not lag behind in taking very prompt measures to curb those activities and the Government is very successful today.

So far as the division of Manipur into more districts is concerned, I should like to point out—incidentally, this is not my personal desire, it is the will of the people living in those areas—that in order to quicken the progress of this region, there should be more districts. Now we are having five; out of those five, four are from the hill areas and one is from the valley. If the areas are divided into more districts, I am sure that the administration will be more efficient and consequently the progress will be more swift. I would, therefore, like to request the hon. Minister to see that this is done.

So far as the integrity of Manipur is concerned, my hon. friend has just now pointed out that not an inch of our land will be given to any other State. This is our stand, and we stick to this for all time to come.

I would also like to point out here that some hon. friends yesterday were referring to the problems and difficulties of the hill areas, and one friend opposite said that the tribals were being exploited by the plains people. There may be a sort of attitude towards the hill people by the plains people, but that does not mean that the tribal people are being exploited. I do not find any important instance to say that the tribals are being exploited. On the contrary, the people have been trying to live together harmoniously and peacefully. If we utilise this Bill properly, I think the progress of Manipur will be improved very much, and the people as a whole will be able to come into the mainstream of the country in regard to development and other aspects.

There are various provisions in this Bill, and it is said that they could have been improved. There is always scope for improvement. That is why I say that the

provisions are for the time being adequate. We will give a trial to them and see how they work. If we find that there is need for change, I am sure the Government will consider the matter and change the provisions for the better.

As a person coming from the hill areas and as a Member of this party, I support this measure.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Sir, for the last 16 years, I have been associated with the constitutional development of this pretty land of Manipur. In 1957, when my distinguished colleague, Mr Laisram Achaw Singh made a demand for Statehood from the opposition benches, I happened to be present. I have watched with interest the emergence of Manipur from a Class C State to a Union Territory and now to Statehood. The Bill has been introduced and it will be passed. This Bill provides some safeguards for the interests of tribals and I support it. At the same time, I would like to point out some lacunae.

11.56 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

In the hill areas of Manipur, mostly Nagas live. Nagas live in Nagaland and in Burma also. There has been some demand for the integration of some areas of Manipur in Nagaland, so that all the Naga people may get a homeland of their own, a bigger State, and they can rule themselves according to their own aspirations. I do not find any unreasonableness in that demand. Meghalaya has been ceded. Mizoram is going to be formed. Similarly, if there is a demand for some of the predominantly Naga areas to be integrated with Nagaland, there is nothing unreasonable in it. I cannot understand the argument of some hon. members regarding the entity of Manipur. It is after all a feudal legacy. The Manipur we have today was a former State, and it was kept intact. That does not mean that the local people, whose aspirations may be to be associated with their own kith and kin in the adjoining area should be overlooked.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: The local

people do not want it. We won the elections on this issue.

SHRI P. K. DEO : I do not want any interruption. The minister is there to reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): They are the representatives of those people and on this matter, they do possess knowledge which you and I may not possess.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The scheduled tribes are not under discussion.

SHRI P. K. DEO : The District Councils are specifically meant to safeguard the interests of the tribal people, according to the Statement of Objects and Reasons. So far as the scheduled tribe is concerned, it has been vaguely stated and not properly defined. When Mr Dasaratha Deb spoke about scheduled tribes, he being a scheduled tribe himself, I personally feel that he is quite competent to safeguard his own interests.

12.00 hrs.

In the Lok Sabha the Maharaja of Tripura came as a Scheduled Tribe member from Tripura. He is quite capable of safeguarding his own interest. So, this practice of availing of the benefits reserved for the Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution by people who are capable of looking after themselves should be rejected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This Bill is about the District Councils in Manipur. But he is suggesting that the prerogatives of the Scheduled Tribes should be done away with and he is bringing in the Maharaja of Tripura. I really wonder how they are all connected. I am surprised that a senior Member like him should bring in such points.

SHRI P. K. DEO : They all come under the District Councils.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I wonder how the Maharaja of Tripura comes under the District Councils. Please be relevant.

SHRI P. K. DEO : So far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, I want a categorical answer from the Minister. He will remember that we had a discussion some time back.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister will not reply to the point about Scheduled Tribes because that is not under discussion.

SHRI P. K. DEO : This is primarily meant for them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Bill is only about the District Councils for Manipur.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Every other Member has spoken about the Scheduled Tribes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be relevant.

SHRI P. K. DEO : So far as the District Council is concerned, more autonomy should be given to that.

Here I want to submit that the age-old custom of jhumri cultivation is denied to the people on the plea of soil erosion, afforestation or denudation of forest wealth. This is affecting the economy of the people. Though there is dearth of land in the valley, on the hill slopes cultivation can be allowed. So, the people of that area have to be given the assurance that their age-old practice will be allowed.

Coming to nomination, I am against nomination as such. When the people of that area are given the power to select their own representatives and to look after their own affairs they should be given full power and there should be no provision for nomination even for the district councils because that may be used for partisan ends.

Finally, it is the responsibility of the Centre to preserve the culture, the social customs and the colourful life of these tribal people. So, Government should take necessary steps in that regard.

SHRI A. KEVICHUSA (Nagaland) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that

[Shri A. Kevichusa]

in the eastern region, apart from Assam, Manipur should have been the first to gain Statehood. While congratulating the Manipuris for achieving Statehood I want to say a few words. The hon. Member from Manipur repeatedly said that the Naga inhabited areas of Manipur should not be taken out of Manipur. The move to bring together the contiguous Naga-inhabited areas into one unit is not a new one. The agitation has been going on for over two decades. In connection with this agitation three Mao Nagas of Manipur were shot dead by Manipur Rifles in 1969 and many were put into prison.

I listened with interest to Shri Tombi Singh when he said that the Nagas and the Manipuris belonged to the same ethnic group. This realisation in itself is a good sign. But the realisation has come only after the agitation started to tag the Naga inhabited areas with Nagaland.

Anyone going to Nagaland and Manipur will be struck by the cultural differences that divide the two peoples. With the passage of time I do hope that the differences will become less sharp. But until then it would be folly to keep a people to be partners in a State against their wish.

Take the case of Assam. The State of Assam, when formed, comprised of the plains districts and the hill districts. In 1957 Nagaland came out of Assam after much blood had been spilled. In 1960 a Naga delegation came to Delhi and on the basis of a 16-point agreement, Statehood was promised to Nagaland. One point in the 16-point agreement of 1960 was that the contiguous Naga inhabited areas should be integrated into Nagaland. The Naga people feel that that part of the agreement remains unfulfilled.

In 1966 the people of Mizoram rose in armed revolt. This hastened the conception of the State of Meghalaya and now Mizoram will come out of Assam. Is it necessary to repeat the process tried in Assam which ended in failure? Is it not time to learn from past experience?

The Naga people have nothing against

the people of Assam. The relationship between the Nagas and their Ahom kings had been cordial. Good neighbourliness prevailed. The relationship between the people of Assam and Nagaland became somewhat strained only when they were unequally yoked.

Manipur is a fabulously rich valley. It is a surplus area. The Naga inhabited areas form the deficit areas. Manipur stands to lose nothing by being shorn of the poor and rugged hill areas. The relationship between the hill people and the valley people, if allowed a free natural growth, will be cordial. Let Government learn from past experience. Wise and timely decision would have saved many a precious life in Nagaland and Mizoram.

श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा (उज्जैन) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मणिपुर सुरम्य पर्वत श्रेणियों के मध्य प्रकृति की गोद में बसा हुआ है और एक सीमा-वर्ती प्रान्त है। इस राज्य से बाहर के अन्य देशों की सीमाएँ मिलती हैं और आज जब हमारा देश संकट की घड़ी से गुजर रहा है और युद्ध के दौर से गुजर रहा है तब यह हमारा परम पुनीत कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि पूर्वांचल में जितने भी पहाड़ी राज्य हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में हम विशेष रूप से हर पहलू पर विचार करें ताकि वहाँ के लोगों के अन्दर किसी प्रकार की असुखता की भावना या तनाव की भावना न उत्पन्न होने पाये।

इस विषयक के उद्देश्यों में कहा गया है कि मणिपुर के अन्दर जन-जातियों के लोग निवास करते हैं। वहाँ पर उन लोगों को राज्य के काम काज में अधिक रूप से सक्रिय करने के लिए राज्य की तरफ़की के कामों में उनको सम्बद्ध करने के लिए इन जिला परिषदों का निर्माण किया जा रहा है। जहाँ तक जिला परिषदों के निर्माण का सवाल है, मैं इसका हृदय से स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन कुछ तथ्यों की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

पेज 3 पर उपधारा 30 में यह कहा गया है कि सोलह सबसे इलेक्टेड होंगे। इसमें आगे

कल बार यह भी कहा गया है कि चार व्यक्ति नामिनेटिड होंगे। नामजद जो किए जाएंगे इसके बारे में मैं विशेष रूप से कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। मणिपुर राज्य एक पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र है। वहाँ पर जन जातिघों के लोग रहते हैं। उन पर अगर आप चार लोगों को नामजद करने के रख देते हैं तो इसका परिणाम यह होगा कि उन चार लोगों की वहाँ मौजोपोली होगी और वे दलीय हित साध सकते हैं या निजी हित साध सकते हैं। अगर ऐसा हुआ तो जिस उद्देश्य को सामने रख कर आप इस बिल को लाए हैं, उसके ऊपर एक प्रकार से कुठाराघात होगा।

इसी प्रकार से पेज 8 पर अध्यक्ष के हटाने जाने की विधि बताई गई है। धारा 23 की उपधारा 2 में कहा गया है कि यदि किसी निर्वाचित अध्यक्ष को हटाने के लिए कोई संकल्प या प्रस्ताव लाना हो या अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लाना हो तो उसके लिए एक तिहाई लोगों के हस्ताक्षर होने चाहिये और इन हस्ताक्षरों सहित उसकी सूचना देनी होगी। अब यह प्रस्ताव पारित तब होगा जब दो तिहाई लोग उसके पक्ष में मत देंगे। इसमें साथ ही एक बात और कही गई है। उसको मैं उद्धृत करना चाहता हूँ। धारा 23 की उप धारा 2 में कहा गया है कि यदि ऐसा संकल्प परिषद की कुल सदस्य संख्या के दो तिहाई से कम, किन्तु आधे से अन्धून द्वारा पारित किया जाय तो प्रशासक लिखित आदेश द्वारा उन कारणों से जो लेखबद्ध किए जाएंगे, अध्यक्ष को उसके पद से ऐसी तारीख से, जो आदेश में विनिर्दिष्ट की जाए, हटा सकेगा। एक जगह यह कहा जा रहा है कि दो तिहाई मतों से अविश्वास प्रस्ताव को पारित किया जाए और दूसरी ओर जहाँ इस विधेयक में यह भी कहा जा रहा है कि प्रशासक को अधिकार होगा कि आधे से कुछ अधिक मत आएँ तब भी वह उनको हटा सकता है। मैं नहीं समझ सका हूँ कि इसके पीछे मंत्री महोदय की क्या भावना है। क्या यह खुले रूप में प्रजातन्त्र की अवहेलना नहीं है? आप जन जातिघों को अधिक से अधिक सुविधायें देना चाहते हैं।

उनको अधिक से अधिक अधिकार देना चाहते हैं। जब ऐसी बात है तो इस तरह के अधिकार आप प्रशासक को क्यों दे रहे हैं। इन अधिकारों का दुरुपयोग भी हो सकता है।

साथ ही साथ आगे यह कहा गया है कि एक वर्ष तक अध्यक्ष के खिलाफ अविश्वास का प्रस्ताव नहीं लाया जा सकेगा। समझ में नहीं आता है कि सरकार की इसके पीछे भावना क्या है? प्रजातन्त्रीय प्रणाली आप वहाँ पर लागू करना चाहते हैं, आप यह चाहते हैं कि मणिपुर राज्य के लोग विकास कार्यों में सहयोग करें, वहाँ के लोगों को राज्य की तरक्की और उन्नति के कामों में सम्बद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो क्या कारण है कि अध्यक्ष के खिलाफ एक साल तक अगर कोई अविश्वास का प्रस्ताव लाना चाहे तो वह नहीं ला सकेगा, उसको ऐसा करने से वंचित किया जा रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यदि आप इस कलाज को हटा दें तो ज्यादा उपयुक्त होगा। जो अध्यक्ष पद पर विराजमान होगा यदि उसके प्रति लोगों में अविश्वास की भावना है, उसके कार्य कलाप को वे पसन्द नहीं करते हैं, उनके बारे में लोगों को सन्देह हो गया है तो इसकी इजाजत होनी चाहिये कि लोग उसके खिलाफ एक साल में भी अगर अविश्वास का प्रस्ताव लाना चाहें तो ला सकें।

धारा 25 में कहा गया है कि जो विधान सभा का तथा जिला परिषद दोनों का सदस्य होगा, उसको जिला परिषद की सदस्यता से त्याग पत्र देना होगा। इस बात को इस में क्यों रखा गया है, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ। वहाँ लो। पिछड़े हुए हैं। वहाँ पर आप इन परिवर्तनों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि विधान सभा के सदस्यों को परिषद की सदस्यता से मुक्त करना न्याय संगत नहीं है। राज्य के निर्माण के लिए हम जन जाति के लोगों को प्रजातान्त्रिक प्रणाली के साथ सम्बद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो यह जो बंधन उन पर लगाया गया है, इसको हटाया जाना चाहिये।

वहाँ के लोग कई सालों से पूरा राज्य का

[श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा]

दर्जा दिये जाने की मांग कर रहे हैं और उनका प्रतिनिधि मंडल, प्रधान मंत्री, गृह मंत्री, गृह मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों से मिला था। उसके बाद मंत्री महोदय ने कालिंग अटेंशन नोटिस का जवाब देते हुए कहा था

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want to say? That Manipur should be granted State-hood? Why take so much time? What you want is being done.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : उमी पर मैं आ रहा हूँ। कालिंग स्टेशन नोटिस का जवाब देते हुए मंत्री महोदय ने यह कहा था :

"As the House is aware, we have a number of Union Territories. In considering the grant of Statehood to any of them, factors like area, population, terrain, level of economic development, financial resources and security considerations, if any, have to be carefully gone into before any conclusions can be reached. The question whether Manipur could be made into a State has been engaging our attention. It will take some time for Government to come to a definite conclusion."

मणिपुर एक पर्वतीय राज्य है और वहाँ पर लोग पूर्ण राज्य का दर्जा दिये जाने की मांग कर रहे हैं। चीन और पाकिस्तान के लोग वहाँ नागरिकों को भड़का रहे हैं।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want to say? I don't really understand. You want to say that Statehood should be given to Manipur?

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : यदि वहाँ लोगों के अन्दर अलगत्व की भावना उत्पन्न...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am saying that the Bill has been introduced for that purpose. You need not take so much time of the House for that purpose.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : जहाँ तक जिला परिषदों का सवाल है, इनका तो मैं स्वागत कर

रहा हूँ। साथ साथ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पूर्वाञ्चल का जो यह प्रदेश है वहाँ के लोग काफी समय से पूरे राज्य के दर्जे की मांग कर रहे हैं और उनकी इस मांग को स्वीकार कर लिया जाना चाहिये। आज जो स्थिति निर्मित हो गई है, उसको देखते हुए वहाँ के लोगों को राज्य का पूरा दर्जा दिया जाना चाहिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं चाहता हूँ कि मिन बांगों की ओर मैंने उनका ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, उनकी ओर वह विशेष ध्यान दे।

श्री भागीरथ भंडार (भाबुशा) : मैं आपका अधिक समय नहीं लेना चाहूँगा। पूर्व वक्ताओं ने मणिपुर क्षेत्र में जिला परिषदों के निर्माण के बारे में हिमाची भाषा और संस्कृति, वहाँ की समस्याओं के बारे में काफी प्रकाश डाला है। जहाँ तक इन परिषदों के निर्माण का सम्बन्ध है, मैं स्वागत करता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस प्रकार की परिषदों का निर्माण करने का निर्णय किया है और इस हेतु इस बिल को यहाँ लाई है। प्रजातंत्र में पंचायतें, जिला परिषदें उनकी बुनियाद होती हैं, बुनियादी इकाइयाँ होती हैं, प्रजातंत्र के पाये होती हैं।

मन्त्री जी ने अपने प्रारम्भिक भाषण में उल्लेख किया है कि परिषदें वहाँ की आदिम जातियों की संस्कृति, भाषा, सामाजिक और राजनीतिक तौर पर उनका विकास हो, इन सब बातों को सोचेंगी और योजनाएँ बनाएँगी। मेरा निवेदन है कि देश के कई राज्यों में आज भी पंचायतें काम कर रही हैं। कहीं उनको जिला पंचायतों का नाम दिया गया है कहीं जनपद पंचायतें बनी हुई हैं और कहीं और प्रकार से पंचायतें काम कर रही हैं। इस से मिलती जुलती परिषदें वहाँ बनाई जा रही हैं। देश में अन्य प्रदेशों में जो पंचायतें काम रही हैं देखा गया है कि जिस प्रकार से उन को चलना चाहिये नहीं चल रही हैं

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please refer to the Bill, not to Panchayats. You are pointing out defects of the Panchayats.

श्री चागीरब बंबर : मैं मिसाल के तौर पर कह रहा था। मैं इस विषय को छोड़ देता हूँ।

देश में जो स्थानीय संस्थाएँ बनी हुई हैं और जिन को स्वायत्तता प्रदान की गई है उन पर केन्द्र और राज्य शासनों की ठीक से देख रेख न होने के कारण, वे संस्थाएँ ठीक से नहीं कार्य कर पा रही हैं। अब मनीपुर में जो जिला परिषदें बन रही हैं उनके बारे में भी मुझे शंका है कि केन्द्रीय शासन की इन परिषदों पर ठीक से देखरेख हो सकेगी या नहीं। यह कहा गया है कि आदिम जातियों को संरक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए, उनका विकास करके के लिए, उनकी संस्कृति, भाषा, रहन सहन आदि का देखभाल करने के लिए और इनके संरक्षण के लिए इन काउंसिलों का, इन परिषदों का निर्माण किया जा रहा है और इनके निर्माण से विभाग के रास्ते खुल जाएंगे। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश में जितनी इस तरह की संस्थाएँ काम करती हैं, उनकी हालत बहुत खराब है। इन संस्थाओं की तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है और न धन दिया जाता है। मैं गृह मंत्री महोदय से कहूँगा कि इन संस्थाओं में जो बुनियादी ढाँचा है, वह उन को दूर करे।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate, and if I may, I would like particularly to thank the two hon. Members from Manipur in this House for their contributions which reflected not only their intimate knowledge of the situation in Manipur, of the problems of Manipur, of the history of Manipur and of the aspirations of the people of Manipur, but also if I may say so, the lively concern for the part that Manipur plays in the larger context of India. I am grateful to them for having balanced these two factors in their speeches, which are both vital and inter-related.

It is my privilege to come before this House with the first of a series of measures which will restructure the north-eastern part of India. Manipur will become a State, and so also Tripura and also Meghalaya. That is the intention, and along with that, Mizoram will become a Union territory, and NEFA which has been named Arunachal Pradesh will become Union territory. These are changes which have great significance not only for the north-eastern region but for the whole country.

In effecting these changes, we have been conscious of the need to respond in the fullest measure to the hopes and aspirations of the people inhabiting this region, because the north-eastern part of India is fascinating, colourful and is inhabited by various communities which have their own distinctive ways of life.

While responding to the aspirations of the people for greater powers, for Statehood or for Union territory status, we have also sought at the same time to see that the minimum coordination necessary for an integrated development of the whole region and for an integrated approach to the security problems of the region should not be lost sight of. All these provisions will be included in other Bills which are to come before this House.

Another factor which we have kept in mind is the peculiarity of the problems faced by individual units, because of the variety of the ethnic and cultural and geographical composition of the north-eastern part of the country.

One cannot just take a broad view and leave it at that. One has to go into the problems of each individual unit. The process of consultation has been a long one. We have consulted all the people of this region, their representatives. I have myself visited that area. The Prime Minister has met a number of delegations, both in the region and in Delhi. We have made every attempt to see that the final picture that emerges has the sanction of the support of the people of that region. While there are always certain matters in which there may be differences of opinion amongst

[Shri K.C. Pant]

groups in the region, we have made an effort to see that the final solution meets the criterion I submitted to the House earlier, satisfaction of the aspirations of the people in conformity with the largest good of the country.

In Manipur, the problem can be summed up in terms used by Shri Tombi Singh and Shri Hackip. They represent, if I may say so, in this House the valley and tribal people of Manipur. They have been elected by the people of the valley and the tribal people respectively and it has given me great satisfaction that both of them have unreservedly supported this measure. Both of them have reflected in their speeches the desire to bring the valley people and the hill people together. I think this House can give no better start to this new unit that we are going to create, the new State of Manipur, than to underline and emphasise the need to promote harmony amongst the various people inhabiting that region.

It is a fact of history and geography and the need of the times that as in the whole of India we promote unity in the midst of diversity so in the north-east region we must promote unity in the midst of diversity. In each of these units, while we provide for safeguarding of the natural interests of the culture and the way of life of the tribal people and others who need protection, at the same time, we promote harmony and the attitude of living together and working together for the people inhabiting that region. That is why I derive great satisfaction from the speeches of these hon. friends.

My hon. friend, Shri Dasaratha Deb, asked me why we were not providing for similar district councils for Tripura. I have gone into that matter. It is a fact that in Tripura also there is a large tribal population, I think 31.53 per cent. The only trouble is that it is scattered. He is shaking his head. *(Interruptions)* I have got the details of each district. I find that except in one district, the sub-division of Amarpur, where out of a total population of 56,365, the Scheduled Tribe population is 70 per cent, in all the others,

it is below 50 per cent; in Sonamura it is only 10.58 per cent; in Sadar, it is 20 per cent; in Udaipur, it is 23 per cent, and so on : in some a little less and in some a little more.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East) : If the refugees continue to settle there, and if you do not protect the tribals now by scheduling that area, then, in future, the percentage will come down to three, or two, and then nil.

SHRI K. C. PANT : If the reference is to the present influx of refugees, then, he has the assurance of the Prime Minister and the Government that these refugees will go back to Bangla Desh. I think seeing the way in which the situation is developing in Bangla Desh, he should have some assurance that conditions are being created when the refugees will go back.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I am not against the refugees. In fact, we have accepted many refugees in the earlier period also. I only wanted to say that certain areas should be scheduled where the tribal people can live and where these types of councils may be granted.

SHRI K. C. PANT : What he said yesterday was about the district councils for Tripura, and I went into that question. As I said, I am only pointing out the difficulty. But I do agree that there are tribal people there, and the fifth schedule will apply. It will apply to these tribal people, and when the government of the new State is formed, Government can take measures and will take measures, I hope, with the support of Shri Dasaratha Deb and no doubt with his help. For instance, I may mention that there could be a tribal advisory council to advise on all matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of Scheduled Tribes. That is part of the fifth schedule, and under the fifth schedule this can be done. But because of the dispersed tribal population, it may be difficult to repeat what has been done in Manipur. That is all I am saying. In Manipur, the tribal population is 90 per cent in the hill areas. Here, even if one were to make a district council for this one sub-division which consists of a tribal population of 70 per cent, it will only cater to a very

small part of the total tribal population and will not really serve the purpose which Shri Deb has in mind. I am not unmindful of what he said. I do agree that this problem needs consideration. We have paid attention to it, but I cannot provide the same remedy for Tripura as for Manipur.

There has been some reference to nomination. I think the best thing is to take it up when we come to clause-by-clause consideration.

Shri Basumatari has spoken with great feeling. He is one of the senior tribal Members, if I may say so, in the House, and he has seen in the last so many years the steps taken to protect the interests of the tribal people, and he is also conscious, as I am, that still much more needs to be done. Both these sentiments were reflected in his speech.

Only one point I would like to take up, and that is, he said that nominations are being made to introduce elements which would safeguard the interests of the plains. That is not the intention. I would like to assure him that the only idea behind the nominations is that these Scheduled Tribes who are numerically weak or who are small in number and who form pockets in larger Scheduled Tribe populations, may not get elected to the district council, and therefore, these numerically weak tribal groups also may have a chance to get representation in the district councils. This is the idea behind the nominations.

Shri Tombi Singh has made a speech which covers all the important aspects of this Bill. I do not want to comment on it in detail because it deserves to be considered in its entirety by the whole House and every Member. There is really nothing I can add to it or improve upon it. He referred to the unity in variety which has characterised this country. He has referred to its cultural unity and also to the fact that in spite of so many differences we as a country have been one and that oneness has extended to areas like Manipur. He has pleaded that we should not raise doubts about the basic unity of the country. I think the

House will appreciate that sentiment and agree with him entirely.

He has also referred to the number of districts, as did some other Member; I think Mr. Haokip referred to it. We are providing for six districts. This may appear large but the intention behind it is to give a district or provide for a district for each big tribal group so that all of them can have a sense of identity with that district. This again is an effort to respond to the aspirations of the tribal people there, to the different groups as far as possible. But there has to be a balance between the size and the population of a district and the satisfaction of the aspirations. You cannot have, for instance, in a small area with a small population 10 or 20 districts. This is an attempt to balance these two factors and I think Mr. Haokip will support it.

Shri Tombi Singh referred to the attempts of China and Pakistan to foment trouble in this region. The House is aware of whatever China and Pakistan may have been attempting to do there. But I think the House is also confident of the basic identity of the people, identification of the people of that region with the rest of the country. There is that basic sense of identification. In spite of occasional differences among themselves, between them and us—these are not confined to the north-eastern region, in whole country we have differences between the Centre and the States or between one State and another—this should not lead or lead anyone into a wrong kind of thinking that there is lack of identification of the people in that region with the rest of the country. I had been there and I have met their representatives. We have in you, Sir, one of the finest representatives of that region, if I may say so and the patriotic sentiments of the people there; their desire not only to develop themselves but to contribute to the development of the country is something which strengthens one's faith in the future of this country and therefore I am quite confident that Pakistan or any other hostile country which seeks to foment trouble in that region is destined to disappointment. That is all I can say.

[Shri K.C. Pant]

So far as Shri Banerjee's performance is concerned, it was a fine impromptu performance. I was waiting for him to shed some light on the details of the Bill.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I supported it.

SHRI K. C. PANT : That is why I am thanking you ; I was coming to that. I thank you very much for the support you gave to the Bill.

Shri Haokip referred to some of the reasons that have held up the progress of the tribal areas, in particular to the fact that the Union Territories Act, 1963, did not give enough power to the State, to the tribal people, to the Hill Areas Committee etc., for effecting sufficient progress. This problem has been dealt with, and the Northeastern Region Reorganisation Bill which I have introduced will bring the State of Manipur into being, if the House approves of it, and this takes care of the point raised by him, which was also referred to by Shri Verma.

There is only one point which I would like very briefly to refer to. Shri P. K. Deo referred to *Jhuming*. I do not quite understand that because that has been provided for in the Bill already. So, I do not really know why he referred to that.

In the end, I would like to refer briefly to the speech of Shri Kevichusa who talked of Naga integration. I would only plead with him and other friends who talk of the integration of the Naga area, that this is a moment of joy and fulfilment for the people of Manipur, so let us not do or say anything in this House which detracts from the sense of satisfaction, from the sense of joy and happiness which they are bound to feel when the new State comes into being. And it is in this spirit that I would like to plead with him and others, who have brought in this idea of taking away a part of Manipur and attaching it to Nagaland, at this juncture, when Manipur has become a State, to understand and realise the feelings of the

people of Manipur and not to raise this issue at all which will only create difficulties.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of District Councils in the Hill Areas in the Union territory of Manipur, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It was announced here that at 12.45 some statements were to be made by Ministers. I have received the following intimation from the Deputy Chief Whip of the ruling party that due to certain unavoidable reasons, Shri Fakruddin Ali Ahmed, Minister of Agriculture, would not be making the statement on sugar today as earlier intimated. He would make the statement only on Monday the 13th December, 1971.

Shri Sethi.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT Re: AVAILABILITY OF KEROSENE OIL

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : With the substantial improvement in the availability position of kerosene oil, State Governments were intimated in May 1970 that Statewise allocations have been given up and the oil companies have instructed to meet the requirements of this product in full, in accordance with the actual materialisation of demand which is subject to sharp seasonal fluctuations. It has been possible to maintain this position all along except for local shortages, arising from factors beyond our control such as breaches of rail tracks owing to floods etc.

Even though the heavy influx of refugees from Bangla Desh generated a heavy demand for kerosene oil as also for many other commodities, we were not only able to satisfactorily meet this demand but also to progressively build up the inventories. The Hon'ble Members will appre-

ciate that it will not be in the public interest to presently disclose the details of those inventories, but what I can assure the House is a wholly satisfactory inventory position held by us.

Soon after Pakistan launched the all out offensive against us late in the evening of Friday, 3rd December, 1971, the State Government were reassured that we are holding substantial inventories of kerosene-oil and the public need have no fear on this account. The possibilities of local shortages arising now and then could not, however, be ruled out owing to the need for first meeting the other higher priority requirements. We, therefore, stressed the need for utmost local vigilance, leaving the decision to the State Governments of either continuing intensive supervision and control over its distribution according to stock position in different areas from time to time or alternatively of introducing rationing, as may be feasible. We also stressed the need for meeting the requirements of the rural areas through fair price shops etc., and of promptly punishing under the Defence of India Rules those who hoard stocks or overcharge or misuse kerosene.

Since then several complaints have been received of local shortages of kerosene oil. These complaints can only be due to a general tendency to store essential commodities, including kerosene oil. To avoid any hardship to genuine consumers, we have now recommended to the State Governments the immediate introduction of rationing of kerosene oil to cover the maximum possible area. Back-up quantities for this purpose are locally available and will be regularly maintained. The Delhi Administration has already introduced rationing. Additionally, the IOC has specifically earmarked 5 tank lorries for the retail sale of this product directly to the consumers in the various localities. IOC has instructions to render similar assistance in the other regions also wherever possible. For the rural area we have urged once again the adoption of measures such as distribution through fair price shops etc. Finally we have repeated our instructions for the sternest possible action being taken under Defence of India Rules, including resort to detention under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act and

prosecution, where feasible, of those indulging in antisocial activities such as hoarding, overcharging or misusing kerosene oil.

Some Hon. Members rose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Under the rules no questions are allowed. The rule says :

“A statement may be made by a minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made.”

You have put me here to abide by the rules, not violate them. If you want a discussion, you may give separate notice.

As earlier announced, the Defence Minister will make a statement at 1.15.

We will now take up clause-by-clause consideration. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : What is this? Kerosene is not a defence matter. Only MPs, Speaker, Deputy-Speaker, etc. may be getting it. People are standing in the queue for six hours and more and they are not able to get kerosene.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would request you to cooperate. You can give notice. Don't ask me to violate the rules.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : There have been many instances where the Speaker has allowed one question to be put by each member after such important statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can seek another opportunity.

12.47 hrs.

MANIPUR (HILL AREAS) DISTRICT COUNCILS BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up clause-by-clause consideration. There are no amendments to clause 2 and 3.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4 (Constitution of District Councils and their Composition

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East) : I beg to move :

Page 3, omit lines 21 to 23, (1)

SHRI PAOKAI HAOKIP (Outer Manipur) : I beg to move :

Page 3, line 20 for "sixteen" substitute "eighteen" (13)

Page 3, line 21, for "four" substitute "two" (14)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : My amendment is very simple. I have already referred to it in my speech. I am always against any nomination in any elected body. I want the entire nomination clause to be omitted from the Bill, from lines 21 to 23, because in an elected body, if we want to develop democratic institutions, we must avoid any type of nomination in such a body. Because, if the provision about nomination is there then undesirable elements may be nominated and placed in the Council. I will tell you my own experience. When the Tripura Assembly Bill was passed, I opposed the provision about nomination. At that time Shri Pant explained that the provision is there only to give representation to those sections of the tribes who may not be elected to the Council. What is our present experience? There is provision for nomination of three members to the Tripura Legislative Assembly. It has never happened that a person has been nominated because he represents a section of the tribes who have not got elected

directly to the Assembly. One lady was nominated. I agree that women should get a chance. I do not dispute that. But why is it that every time a woman was nominated belonging to the community of Chakravartty? Even though there are Scheduled Tribe women belonging to other communities available, the same woman is being nominated. Similarly, I agree that when there are no elected members from the Manipuri community they should be nominated. But why the same person, and that too belonging to the Congress Party, which is the ruling party? In 1957 after the election the party position in our Territorial Council was 15 for us and 15 for the ruling party. Then the Congress Party nominated one member belonging to their party and thereby secured a majority. That is why I oppose this nomination clause. It should be deleted. The council should be an entirely elected body and there should be no scope for any nomination.

SHRI PAOKAI HAOKIP : Clause 4 of the Bill says that the total number of members in the District Council shall not be more than 16. The strength of the Council is far below the expectation of the people. It should be raised to 18.

My second amendment is that number of nominated members should be reduced from 4 to 2. I hope the hon. Minister will accept them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : Now when we are considering this Bill clause by clause may I point out that this Bill is modelled on the Territorial Council Bill passed by Parliament in December 1956. Shri Deb took a very active part in the framing of that Bill. The House considered that Bill fully and some of the provisions of the Territorial Councils Bill were altered by the House. So, this is really a measure which has been fully considered by Parliament in another form at an earlier date. It has also been our experience that it has worked well. Therefore, by and large, these provisions need not arouse any controversy.

Shri Deb seems to have allowed his experience of a lady member in Tripura to colour his judgment.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore) : He has nothing against the lady. He is against nomination.

SHRI K. C. PANT : He called her a 'lady' first and then a 'woman'. He also said that he is agreeable to nomination but not of the same person. I would only request him not to allow his experience of one lady to colour his judgment.

Shri Paokai has moved two amendments which have the effect of reducing the number of nominated members from 4 to 2, and reducing the strength of the House from 20 to 18. I see there is a strength of the House. Some other Members also referred to it. I am prepared to accept the nomination of 2 and I want to repeat that the purpose is not to nominate at random but to nominate those who will be left out of elective process who are in minority. It is their nomination that is sought to be protected here. I am accepting both the amendments No. 13 and 14.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : First I put Amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Dasaratha Deb to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I put Amendment No. 13 moved by Shri Paokai Haokip.

The question is :

'Page 3, line 20,—

for "sixteen" substitute "eighteen" ' (13)

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then, I put Amendment No. 14 moved by Shri Paokai Haokip.

The question is :

'Page 3, line 21,—

for "four" substitute "two" ' (14)

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I put clause 4, as amended, to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That Claus 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 13(Term of office of Members)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I beg to move :

Page 4,—

omit lines 30 to 32. (2)

Sir, in clause 13, there is a proviso :

" Provided that the Administrator may, when satisfied that it is necessary in order to avoid administrative difficulty, extend the term of office of all the members by such period not exceeding one year as he thinks fit."

I oppose the provision. It should be deleted. The Administrator should not be given the power to extend the life of this Council. Here, the term fixed is five years and, after every five years, there should be elections.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, it is usual to make provisions in local laws pertaining to local bodies for extending the term of the members if it becomes necessary. For instance, suppose there is a natural calamity or some other thing. It may become necessary to extend it for some time. This is not an unusual provision. This is not a State Assembly. This is after all a District body. You should not tie your hands to an extent that if it becomes necessary to extend it, you cannot extend it. That is the purpose. I cannot accept his amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I put Amendment No. 2 to clause 13 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 2 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I now put clause 13 to vote.

The question is :

"That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 14 to 22 were added to the Bill.

13.00 hrs.

Clause 23 (Chairman and Vice-chairman)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I beg to move :

Page 6,—

omit lines 48 and 49. (3)

Page 7, line 2,—

*for "by not less than two-thirds"
substitute "by a simple majority"
(4)*

Page 7, lines 5 to 7,—

*omit "if such resolution is passed
by less than two-thirds but
not less than one-half of the
total membership of the
Council," (5)*

Page 7, line 7,—

for "may" substitute "shall" (5)

Page 7,—

omit lines 10 to 15. (7)

Page 7, line 28,—

*for "Administrator" substitute
"Council" (8)*

Regarding my first amendment to clause 23, there is a proviso in clause 23 which reads :

"Provided that the Administrator may nominate the first Chairman who shall hold office for a period not exceeding one year."

After reading this Bill, I find, the only monarch and fortunate fellow is the Administrator and he has got the super powers in the administration of the Council. This is an elected body. Why should the first Chairman be nominated by the Administrator? Why not the Members of the Council elect their own Chairman? What is the idea? It is a fantastic idea, that is, the first Chairman to be nominated by the Administrator. I oppose it. Let Mr. Pant explain it.

Then, you say here :

"If a resolution for the removal of an elected Chairman is passed by not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the Council....."

I oppose it. Even if a Chairman does not enjoy the confidence of the majority members of the Council, he cannot be removed because for the removal of a Chairman, at least you require two-thirds majority, like an amendment of the Constitution. That means, in this Council consisting of 16 members, even if 11 members vote against the Chairman, that Chairman cannot be removed because with the support of five men he can remain as a Chairman. It is a fantastic thing. Therefore, I oppose it. It should be done by a simple majority. If a simple majority vote against the Chairman, he must be removed.

Another amendment is a consequential one. If this amendment is accepted, then the provision "...if such resolution is passed by less than two-thirds but not less than one-half of the total membership of the Council" is not necessary at all. If the vote of No-Confidence is passed by a simple majority in the Council, then the Administrator is bound to remove the Chairman. The entire thing is very fantastic.

Another proviso reads:

"Provided that no such resolution shall be brought within one year from the date of election of the Chairman."

Why should we fix one year? That resolution can be brought at any moment. When any member feels that the Chairman should be removed and when the resolution is passed by a simple majority, he should be removed from the office.

Then, it says:

"The Chairman of the Council shall be a whole-time functionary and shall be entitled to such salary or allowances as may be fixed by the Administrator."

Here also, the Administrator is all in all. He is a supreme commander. When we are talking of the salary or allowances of the Chairman, I say, the Council is an elected body and you should empower the Council to nominate their own Chairman and also to fix salary or allowances of the Chairman and the members of the Council. The Act or the rules in regard to salary or allowances must be passed by the Council itself. The Administrator should be given no power to interfere in this respect. The entire thing should be left to the Council, not to the Administrator.

These are my amendments to clause 23. To make it a democratic body, I again appeal to the hon. Minister to accept these amendments.

SHRI K.C. PANT Sir, the amendments which have been moved to clause 23 really cover the same ground which was covered in the discussion to clause 22 of the Territorial Councils Bill then and, at that time, as I said, Shri Deb among others had put forward certain ideas and some of these provisions emerged after consideration of the points raised by Shri Deb and others in the course of the discussion.

As regards his first point, may I quote the observations of the then Home Minister? I quote:

"This Council will be started from the

scratch. Many arrangements will have to be made and a lot of spade work and preliminary work will have to be done at the very start. The Chairman, if he is elected from amongst the members of the Council, may not be able to set things on the right keel at the very beginning. So, it is provided that in case it is felt that in order to cope with the difficulties with which this Council will be faced at the outset, it will be desirable to have some person nominated, then he may be nominated but the period, as I have suggested, will not exceed a year in any case. It may be even less than a year. No one may be nominated at all....."

It is an enabling provision.

His next amendment is with regard to the provision that no resolution for the removal of the Chairman shall be moved within one year of his election and such a resolution shall not be renewed within one year of consideration of the previous resolution. This is to be found in all municipal laws and is made to provide for some stability in these bodies.

In the next amendment he has suggested that the salaries and allowances of the Chairman may be fixed by the Council and not by the Administrator. I just indicated that there will be six different District Councils. There should be some uniformity among them and if these District Councils provide for different salaries and allowances, that will not be conducive to the proper functioning of the District Councils. One will compete with the other. Hence the provision that the Administrator may fix that.

I am sorry I cannot accept any of his amendments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will put all the amendments of Mr. Deb to clause 23 to vote.

Amendments Nos. 3 to 8 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 23 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 to 28

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are no amendments to Clauses 24 to 28.

The question is:

"That Clauses 24 to 28 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 24 to 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29 (Functions of District Councils)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: I beg to move:

Page 9,—

for lines 8 to 14, substitute—

"(xiv) the allotment, occupation or use, or the setting apart of land, other than land acquired for any public purpose or land which is a reserved forest situated within the autonomous district of which that Council is constituted;" (12)

My Amendment is to Substitute the following provision in the Bill:

"the allotment, occupation or use, or the setting apart of land, other than land acquired for any public purpose or land which is a reserved forest, for the purpose of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes or for any other purposes likely to promote the interests of the inhabitants of any village or town situated within the autonomous district for which that Council is constituted;"

Here a certain power is vested with the District Council and it is for allotment of land and occupation etc. But I am prepared to give that power for the administration only to take the agricultural land reserved forests or any land acquired for the public purpose. But I am not prepared to give this power to the Administrator to take out the agricultural land or the grazing land for residential quarters. If you give this power, it will mean that they can acquire any land situated in the District Council area and to give it to any person which is prohibited according to Rules and Regulations that exist in the Tribal areas and that is why for grazing, the common man's land should not be allowed to be acquired and given to some other people to construct houses there. That is why I have moved my amendment. That is why my amendment reads:

"the allotment, occupation or use, or the setting apart of land, other than land acquired for any public purpose or land which is a reserved forest situated within the autonomous district of which that Council is constituted."

I think my amendment is very, very important and it is very reasonable that apart from these lands, these District Councils should be given full power to control and to deal with other lands within that area.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The provision that has been included in this Bill is not only a repetition of the provision in the Territorial Councils Act to which I referred but the same guidelines exist in the Constitution. For instance, para 3(1) of the VIth Schedule defines the powers of the District Councils in Assam because there you will find an identical provision included in the Bill. The whole object is that land use should be regulated with a view to promote the interests of the people of the village or the town. This is a salutary provision to which there should be no objection.

Shri Dasaratha Deb should also remember that there is a Hill Areas Committee which has also jurisdiction over land use. So, all these things will have to be kept,

in mind and that is why this provision has been kept. So, I cannot accept the amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment No. 12 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 12 was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 29 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 30 and 31 were added to the Bill.

Clause 32 (Officers and staff)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : I beg to move -

Page 9, line 39, for "Administrator" substitute "Chairman of the Council" (9)

Page 9, lines 41 and 42, for "majority of not less than two-thirds" substitute "simple majority" (10)

Page 9, line 42, for "Administrator" substitute "Chairman" (11)

Clause 32 (1) provides that :

"For every district council there shall be a Chief Executive Officer who shall be appointed by the Administrator."

The chief executive officer will have to work under this Council. Government want that he should be appointed by the administrator.

I would like to know why he should not be appointed by the chairman of the district council, because this executive officer will have to work under the council. If this officer is responsible only to the

administrator for his existence and does not care for the council, then the chairman of the council will find it very difficult to make that gentleman work. That is why I have suggested that any officer working under the council or in the council administration must be appointed by the chairman of the district council.

Then, sub-clause (2) provides :

"If a resolution for removal of the Chief Executive Officer is passed at a meeting of the District Council by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the Council, the Administrator shall remove him forthwith".

Here also, I would suggest that if any necessity arises to remove a corrupt officer, he should be removed by the council by a simple majority, and instead of the administrator, the chairman of the council must be given that power.

SHRI K. C. PANT : The object of the first amendment is to have the executive officer appointed by the council instead of by the administrator. My hon. friend knows that in many municipalities and corporations—I know the case of UP at any rate—the executive officer in the municipal board is appointed by the State Government. That is a healthy practice.

In the case of Manipur also, this has worked well in practice. The Bombay corporation Act which the hon. Member knows is a model Act in many ways for the whole country also has the same provision. So, I think that we should go by the experience of the functioning of the Act and accept the provision as it is.

Regarding the other point that he raised, a balance has been struck. Again, I would quote the then Hon. Minister on this :

"So, while his appointment would rest with the administrator, the council will have the authority to remove the executive officer when it is not satisfied with his work. That should meet all ends and I think will be found satisfactory." To this effect, I am moving another amendment."

[Shri K. C. Pant]

This is the balance that has been struck. Two-thirds majority is there, but it is there for a purpose, but even if it is simple majority, the administrator can take that into account and remove him if he is satisfied. This provision, I think, is a good balance which has been struck.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put amendments Nos. 9, 10 and 11 to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 9 to 11 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 32 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 32 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 33 to 53, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am told that the Defence Minister will be a little delayed. In the meanwhile, we will move on to the next item of business.

13.15 hrs.

ASIAN REFRACTORIES LIMITED (ACQUISITION OF UNDERTAKING) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND

MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR MANGALAM) : I beg to move* :

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition of the undertaking of the Asian Refractories Limited for the purpose of augmenting supplies of refractories to meet the essential requirements of the iron and steel industry, be taken into consideration."

The Bill before the House is for compulsory acquisition of the Asian Refractories. I shall as briefly and succinctly as I can recount the circumstances that have led Government to come forward with this Bill.

All members must be knowing that refractories play a most important part in the production of our steel plants. They are bricks which are used for blast furnaces, for coke ovens and for all areas in steel plants where we have to put them in for producing durable steel.

In April 1960, the promoters of Asian Refractories obtained a licence for setting up a refractory plant to manufacture 24,000 fine clay bricks with a share capital of Rs. 55 lakhs. Two loans were granted by the Industrial Finance Corporation totalling Rs. 55 lakhs. The IFC had the first mortgage on the concern. In 1966, the plant went into commercial production. But unfortunately owing to losses incurred by the plant, I think mainly because of managerial incompetence, the company ran into trouble, defaulted on the payment of dues and stopped production in May 1968. In March 1968, an application was filed by the unsecured creditors of the company for winding it up. In March 1969, the IFC filed an application for sale of the mortgaged assets. On 19th March, 1969, Receivers were appointed. The plant itself was brought up for auction by the court and the first offer was for Rs. 70 lakhs. Then the Eastern Spinning Mills, a concern in the Birla group, offered Rs. 78 lakhs. It was accepted by the order of the court on 16 December, 1970. The court also directed that the deed of conveyance be executed in favour of the

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Eastern Spinning Mills. However, the Eastern Spinning Mills, as I said, a Birla undertaking, had to apply for permission under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. At this stage, the Department of Steel in my Ministry decided that it would be better if we could take over the refractories company, the Asian Refractories, inside our own steel complex as it were. Bokaro itself is situated about five miles or so from the Asian Refractories. The Asian Refractories is a company whose products can be entirely consumed by Bokaro. Bokaro's original plan was to import only 4,000 tonnes of refractories. But unfortunately, owing to the comparatively low quality of the refractories produced indigenously by some of the companies, we have had to import as much as 70,000 tonnes of refractories. Bhilai itself imported nearly 50,000 tonnes in 1970 and 22,000 tonnes in 1971. So despite the fact that we are planning in the public sector a 100,000 tonnes-unit of refractories at Bhilai, the feasibility report for which is under preparation, and it will come into production in 1975, with an investment of something is like Rs. 13 crores, we have to take over Asian Refractories to help us in Bokaro. That is the real object of taking this over.

Now we expect that it should be able ultimately to give us somewhere about 36,000 tonnes refractories after we are able to put in additional investment around a crore of rupees or so.

I may mention to hon. members that the equipment is good equipment, very modern, with a tunnel kiln 330 ft. in length which is capable of maintaining a graded temperature at different places producing first-class refractories. Raw materials are available nearby. We therefore think it is a good deal so far as the country is concerned.

How much are we going to pay for this? About Rs. 81 lakhs. Almost all of this, if not all, will go to the IFC. So really speaking, it is from one pocket of the nation to another that this money will go. The Government have already nominated under clause 9 of the ordinance the Bokaro Steel, Ltd., to carry on the

management of the Asian Refractories. The original investment, therefore, will be about Rs. 81 lakhs. We expect that we will have to invest another Rs. 1.4 crores to bring the plant into commission within six months or so, and as a result of all this, save a considerable amount of money for the nation.

Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the house.

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA (Uluberia): Sir, I support this Bill. But I want to know why other refractories also which are not at least running profitably should not be taken over.

Next, regarding the employees, I want to know what is to be done about the employees who are working there. He has not said anything about them in the Bill. What are the Government going to do about the employees who have been working there before this measure came?

The main point is that the State-controlled concerns should be run profitably. Our experience is very bad, and if that experience is not to be repeated, care must be taken to see that the Asian Refractories should be run profitably and properly to set an example, and its past character should be changed. Because I have got some experience regarding the Flex footwear company in Kanpur. I heard it was a profitable concern. Now, it is running at a loss of Rs. 6 lakhs per month. This should not be the case regarding the other State-controlled undertakings and this Asian Refractories, Ltd., should set an example, after it is taken over. That is the main thing.

As I said, there is the question of the employees who have been working there in the past. I suggest that the old employees should be taken in as much as possible.

Mainly, the Government should see that the Government fulfil the requirements of the nation by running the State-controlled refractory. That is the main objective with which we can make our State-controlled factories self-supporting

[Shri S.P. Bhattacharyya]

and not depend on outside for running the industry.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, let not an impression go out that the Flex Kanpur factory is running at a loss. Before it was taken over by Government, it was running at a loss of Rs. 6 lakhs. Now, its loss has come down to Rs. 2 lakhs.

श्री कमल मिश्र मधुकर (केसरिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो बिल पेश किया है, मैं उस का स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक हमारा अनुभव यह रहा है कि जिन प्राइवेट संस्थानों को सरकार अपने हाथ में लेती हैं, उन में व्यूरोक्रेसी का प्रभुत्व होने, मैनेजमेंट की ठीक ढंग से न चलाने, मजदूरों को व्यवस्था में पार्टिसिपेशन का अवसर न देने और कम्पनी मालिकों को मुआवजा देने आदि के कारण ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो जाती है कि जिस उद्देश्य से सरकार इस प्रकार के बिलों को लाती है, वह उद्देश्य पूरा नहीं हो पाता है। हम इस बात से सहमत हैं कि प्राइवेट इंडस्ट्री को खत्म करके स्टेट सैक्टर के अधिकार क्षेत्र को बढाना चाहिए। लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि सरकार कम्पनी या मिल के मालिकों के सामने झुक जाती है। बिहार में कोकिंग कोल माइन्ज को सरकार ने अपने हाथ में लिया है। इस में बड़ी गड़बड़ियां हो रही हैं। कल इस सम्बन्ध में बिल आने पर हम अपने विचार प्रकट करेंगे। वहां भी हमें यही अनुभव हुआ है।

मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय स्पष्ट रूप से बताये कि मालिकों को मुआवजा देने की क्या जरूरत है और जो संस्थान सरकार अपने हाथ में लेने जा रही है, उस के मैनेजमेंट में किस हद तक मजदूरों के पार्टिसिपेशन की व्यवस्था की जायेगी। अगर व्यूरोक्रेसी,

नौकरशाही, के हाथ में मैनेजमेंट होगा, तो जाहिर है कि सरकार का उद्देश्य पूरा नहीं होगा। यह कितने आश्चर्य और खेद की बात है कि स्टेट सैक्टर की इंडस्ट्रीज का मैनेजमेंट उन लोगों के हाथ में दे दिया जाता है, जिन का स्टेट सैक्टर के सिद्धान्त में विश्वास नहीं है, जो स्टेट सैक्टर को संबोटेज करते हैं। इस प्रकार के संबोटेज को धीरे धीरे घाउट करना चाहिए और स्टेट सैक्टर की इंडस्ट्रीज का मैनेजमेंट उन लोगों के हाथ में देना चाहिए, जिन का स्टेट सैक्टर में विश्वास है। ऐसा करने पर ही वर्किंग क्लास यह अनुभव करेगी कि सरकार समाजवाद की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रही है।

यथार्थ यह है कि सरकार का जो समाजवाद का एलान है, वह एक होक्स है। वह नारा तो लोगों को लगने के लिए लगाया गया है। हम लिए मंत्री महोदय अपने जवाब में कंटेगारिकली बतायें कि इस संस्थान की व्यवस्था में मजदूरों का पार्टिसिपेशन किस हद तक होगा, सरकार नौकरशाही को किस हद तक रोकेगी और जिन लोगों का विश्वास समाजवाद में नहीं है और जो पब्लिक सैक्टर को संबोटेज करना चाहते हैं, उन को धीरे धीरे घाउट करने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठायेगी। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है, ऐसी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए कि वहां पर जो वर्कर काम कर रहे हैं उन की छंटनी न हो और उन की सर्विस कन्डीशन में सुधार किया जाये। इस के अलावा इस संस्थान का काम इस ढंग से चलाना चाहिए कि वह प्रॉफिट में चले। मंत्री महोदय को इन संकाओं को दूर करना चाहिए और सरकार की ओर से गारंटी देनी चाहिए।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, while supporting this Bill introduced by Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam, I want to make a few observations. It is a good policy of the Government to nationalise and take

over these plants in the public sector but every public sector is going in loss and it is well-known to the Minister... (An Hon. Member : Not every). Almost every public sector undertaking, I may say.

The idea is that it should be kept within the Bokaro steel plant management. It should not be with them. What happens? The Minister must be knowing what happened recently. 6,000 tonnes of refractory, both Indian and Russian made were damaged and destroyed in a mysterious fire at Bokaro steel plant last week. The loss was to the tune of a crore, according to estimates. I think a parliamentary enquiry committee should be constituted immediately to enquire into the matter. The officers, whether the General Manager or the Chairman if he is found guilty should be dismissed. Why this fire?

To my information it was planned sabotage. If these things go on how can we expect the completion of the Bokaro steel plant in time as Mr. Kumaramangalam said last time in Parliament? He is more or less, I think, in the hands of the bureaucratic officers because he is not a technical man himself. He may be a good lawyer.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Member may continue tomorrow.

13.24 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : LATEST POSITION WITH REGARD TO PAKISTANI AGGRESSION ON INDIA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is my third statement on the war that has been forced upon us by Pakistan. I am in a position to tell you and the House that Pakistan has failed to achieve even marginally the objectives it may have set for itself when it launched the premeditated assault on our air-fields and ground forces on the evening of December 3rd.

On that evening, Pakistan converted its war on the people of Bangla Desh into a total war on India. Our troops moved into

Bangla Desh from many directions to eliminate the occupying forces from their outer defences. Contact has been established with the Mukti Bahini and the two forces are now acting not only in concert with each other, but under a unified command. In consequence, large areas of Bangla Desh have been freed from occupying forces. The House is already aware of the fall of Jessore, Sylhet and Comilla. The fall of Dinajpur and Rangpur is imminent. The Pakistani forces are pulling out of their strong-points in great confusion, disorder and consternation. The remnants have been ordered to collect in Barisal in the west and Narayanganj in the east. Our forces are astride the Padma, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The Chief of the Army Staff has already warned the Pakistani soldiers to surrender to our forces as all their escape routes by land, air and sea have been sealed. The Pak Air Force in Bangla Desh has been virtually eliminated by our Eastern Air Command. Our Eastern Fleet has complete command over the approaches to all the ports in Bangla Desh. The people of Bangla Desh are heaving a sigh of relief, and our forces have been greeted with jubilation and universal rejoicing.

Our objective on the Jammu and Kashmir area and the Punjab sector has so far been to prevent fighting on our sacred soil and to eliminate Pakistani outposts threatening our security. The enemy has repeatedly tried to obtain lodgments in the Poonch Sector but without success. On the other hand, our troops have captured four important outposts in the Kargil area. The enemy continues to shell our posts in the Uri and Tanghar areas. The attempt to infiltrate Pakistani saboteurs behind our lines has been frustrated.

Pakistan launched a major attack on our positions in the Chhamb area. I have already informed the House that despite the difficulties of the terrain, our troops west of the rivulet Munnawar Tavi held on bravely to their positions for 72 hours. They were withdrawn to our main defensive positions, east of the rivulet, day before yesterday. The fresh Pakistani attacks on our position has been beaten back with heavy losses. The Akhnoor salient has been

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

cut off from its bases in Pakistan. Our probing attacks across the border in Sanbha area and towards the Shakargarh salient have been continued. There has been a lull over the last 48 hours in the Punjab sector.

Hon. Members are aware that the Pakistani armoured column which had made a bid for the area around Ramgarh in the Jaisalmer sector has been decimated. Its remnants are now being mopped up. In the Barmer sector, our troops have made further progress. A two-pronged attack is progressing towards Naya Chor. Our troops are already in contact with the defences of Naya Chor. Army Engineers have laid a railway track of six miles beyond Gadhra Road, joining the two railway systems, that is, of India and Pakistan. A metre gauge train now runs from Barmer to deliver supplies to our forward troops.

Fighting has been severe but major tank formations have not yet been involved in it. Nevertheless, 109 Pakistani tanks have been destroyed and 9 captured in running condition. A sizable quantity of enemy's war materials has also fallen into our hands. We have lost only 49 tanks so far.

Since my last statement on the 7th of December, we have received information that Pakistan's largest submarine, US Built GHAZI, was sunk off Viskhapatnam on the night of 3rd/4th December. When one of our destroyers and a patrol craft were patrolling the approaches of this vital Naval base a submarine contact was picked up. Our ships went into the attack with underwater weapons and a loud explosion followed. The next morning, while naval authorities were investigating the area with the help of local fishermen, one of them picked up a life jacket. The information was carried to me. But I refused to announce that unless conclusive proof was given to me that GHAZI has been killed. Bad weather in the area and preoccupation of the fleet with operations in the Bay of Bengal hampered investigations. Conclusive evidence

was obtained only yesterday when three bodies were picked up. These have been identified as Pakistani sailors. From papers found floating on the surface, it was clearly established that the sunken ship is the Pakistani submarine GHAZI. There are no survivors. The three bodies were accorded a naval burial at sea yesterday.

In all, the Pakistan Navy has so far lost 3 warships, 9 gun boats and 2 submarines. The Indian Navy has suffered no damage.

I now turn to the war in the air. The Pakistani Air Force has been very hesitant to make any daylight raids over our airfields and installations during the last two days. Only during the night they have attacked some of our airfields. Their attacks have generally been haphazard and inaccurate. The losses inflicted on our airfields and vital installations have been negligible.

Our aircrafts, on the other hand, have been carrying out raids on enemy airfields, installations, marshalling yards, troop concentrations and communication systems, both in the western and eastern sectors. Our air sorties have caused substantial damage to Pakistani air installations, dislocated the logistics of ground forces, and destroyed a number of enemy tanks.

The Pakistani Air Force has so far lost 73 planes. Our loss amounts to 31 aircraft.

There has been a noticeable tendency on the part of Pakistani Armed Forces to bombard non-military targets. Our Defence Forces have strict instructions to confine their attention to military targets and avoid any harm to civilian population.

The House will, I am sure, join me in conveying the appreciation of the people of India to the defence forces for their magnificent performance.

13.42 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Friday, December 10, 1971 [Agrahayana 19, 1893 (Saka).]