

attention of the Hon. Labour Minister towards agricultural labourers. There are lakhs of agricultural labourers whose condition is very pitiable. They have neither houses to live in nor they get fully work throughout the year. They get very meagre wages and they have to pass their old age with great difficulty. Even their family members do not take care of them in the old age. At that time their condition becomes very pitiable.

I would, therefore, like to request the Government that arrangement should be made to pay old age pension or some allowance to the old and helpless agricultural labourers so that they do not face starvation in their remaining life and they are able to live peacefully.

- (v) Need to improve transport facilities in Madhya Pradesh to accelerate the economic development of the State

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Madhya Pradesh is the largest State in the country, but the progress made by the State in the matter of communication and transport facilities has been less than the national average. The progress made in the field of railway facilities or the development of roads and air services is not satisfactory. Therefore, there should be expansion of railway lines in the far-flung areas of the State especially, in the tribal districts of Jhabua and Bastar. The State Government has sent proposals for 6 new national highways to the Central Government and the Centre should accord its approval to them expeditiously. We have been demanding for many years that Boeing Air Service should be introduced on Delhi Bhopal-Nagpur and Bombay Aurangabad-Bhopal-Jaipur-New Delhi routes and Bilaspur and Bastar be linked with Bhopal by Vayudoot services.

I would like to submit that by according approval to these schemes, the pace of development of Madhya Pradesh will be accelerated and national income would also go up due to growth in tourist traffic.

[English]

- (vi) Need to amend the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules and set up one man standing tribunals for settling accident claims

DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Chengalpattu) : During the recent past, there have been a number of accidents in Railways and a large number of human lives are being lost, as well as resulting in acute injuries. It may be recalled that the Railway Convention Committee have made some recommendations with regard to the payment of compensation to the victims of the accidents. It has been noticed that the amount of compensation being paid is much delayed and the claims are not settled in time. The Railway Convention Committee have recommended to constitute a one-man claim tribunal to deal with accident claims without further delay. Recently, there was a major accident in Ariyalur, Southern Railway and a lot of hardships and sufferings have been caused to a number of people including the families of the deceased. It is imperative that the Central Government should take immediate steps to amend the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules which were enacted as early as 1950. One-man Standing Tribunals for settling the claims must be constituted on priority basis. This will help redress the sufferings of the accident victims.

- (vii) Need to ensure that the L.P.G. meant for domestic use is not diverted to commercial use by the dealers for monetary gains

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : The Government's decision to raise the price of LPG for commercial purposes may be justified but it poses some unforeseen risks to domestic consumers. As the price between domestic and commercial use differs so widely, there will be greater temptation on the part of LPG distributors to divert LPG meant for domestic users to commercial users. Also, there would be less interest on the part of dealers to supply domestic consumers who would be compelled to wait for a number of days to get the refills. The Government must, therefore, ask each dealer

to keep a separate account of domestic and commercial supplies they make, the date of filling requests for refill, the date of supply and other details to ensure that there is no diversion of LPG meant for domestic supplies and that domestic consumer does not suffer. There should be adequate publicity to these steps lest domestic consumers should be harassed by the dealers and suppliers. There should be heavy penalty for diversion from domestic consumers

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(viii) Need to consider the feasibility of developing Soron town in Etah, Uttar Pradesh as a tourist resort

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Soron town in district Etah, UP is having a population of over thirty thousand besides Nagar Palika and a Railway Station. An annual mela popularly known as 'Marik Sarin' is held there and is attended by thousands of pilgrims from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country to have a holy dip in its tank known as 'Har Ki Pauri'. During the mela, a big cattle fair is also held where hundreds of cattle heads exchange hands. But, the place is absolutely neglected and completely lacks proper maintenance, necessary facilities for the pilgrims and other tourists such as *dharamshalas*. A great need of its taking over by the Centre is, therefore, being felt by the people for its development and for providing necessary facilities for the pilgrims and the tourists. This would also help in the economic development of Etah which is a backward area in Uttar Pradesh.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to consider the feasibility of taking over and developing it under the Central schemes as in the case of tourists resorts in the country.

12.22 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88

—Contd.

[*English*]

Ministry of Home Affairs—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Home Ministry.

For the last two days we have been discussing the Demands of the Home Ministry and probably speaker after speaker has been concentrating on the Babri Masjid issue. In my opinion, it does not only relate to the Home Ministry because this issue today is cutting completely across the body-politic of the country and the evils of communalism have shown their ugly teeth either by way of rallies or inflammatory speeches inciting the religious sentiments of various religions. Now, the time has come when instead of religious bickerings or making it a political issue, we should take a second look at it and all efforts by the society, the Government and everybody in this House should be made to privatize religion. In my humble opinion, religion is a very private or personal matter. Historically, public exhibition of religious sentiments had certain value in the olden days and in the pre-Independence days because at that time National Movements were very much intermingled with religious movements. Due to lack of facilities for publicity and lack of resources to communicate, people used to make use of religious congregations for national purposes such as our freedom struggle or freedom movement.

Today, the time has come when we should review this policy. The time has come when we should have political meetings and discussions between cross-sections of people, without bringing in religion. What is the cause? Why festivals and religious functions being taken cognizance of by political leaders?