

disease, blood pressure and cancer and also pollutes environment.

I, therefore, demand that the Government should impose ban on cigarette, Bidi, tobacco, Pan Masala, Zarda, Ganja, Charas etc. The ban may be gradual starting from a week to a month and then a total ban.

[English]

(viii) Demand to take up immediately repairs of the railway bridge on Kamla Balan river at Jhanjharpur in Bihar

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : 1987 floods were the worst in the living memory for the people of Mithila region of north Bihar. Population in and around Jhanjharpur were worst affected by the fury of Kamla Balan which originates in Nepal and runs through a major portion of Mithila.

Kamla Balan had badly affected the railway bridge near Jhanjharpur. Although rail lines were promptly restored on the intervention of the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister, the railway bridge over Kamla Balan at Jhanjharpur remains depleted even today. Twelve out of sixteen spans of the above railway bridge are lying silted up since the last flood and have not been cleaned as yet. The choked vent is bound to create further devastation in and around Jhanjharpur during the coming rainy season. In this connection, it is necessary to point out that rains usually start in Nepal in the latter half of May.

It is, therefore, earnestly requested that the bridge on Kamla Balan at Jhanjharpur be repaired immediately. Besides, in order to avoid the recurrence of last year's devastation, it is suggested that the widening of the above railway bridge be taken up in right earnest. That apart, Jhanjharpur railway platform and the rail lines there have to be raised by at least seven to eight feet higher.

The Railway Ministry is requested to take up the above work without any further loss of time.

12.29 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89—  
Contd.

Ministry of Defence—Contd.

[English]

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 Defence. Shri Sparrow...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : (Bolpur) : Has item No. 8 on the agenda been taken up ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes.

SARI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the defence of Mother India is an intimate concern of all the hon. Members of this august House irrespective of party affiliations. And to see, in this manner, practically the House deserted by a majority of Members shows what interest we have for the defence of Mother India.

In that context, to start with, adequate defence preparedness acts as a solid root and that offers stability to any country. This is the importance of this particular subject as also the defence measures and armed forces of our Mother country.

Keeping this all important notions in view, I would like to lay before you Sir, my today's presentation, in a dispassionate manner, as steadily and cogently as possible. Before I start laying bare the main facts and factors that are cogently relevant to today's debate, I might mention, that fiscally, the proportionate allocation of funds under different heads, as is laid down in the Defence Budget Demands, is very well conceived. And I feel privileged to support the same.

However, Sir, in my view, to fully meet the sudden, over-riding and big time defence requirements apropos of the explosively charged geo-political and geo-strategical situation that obtains globally today, one has to think very carefully whether more funds for defence preparedness would be necessary as time comes by. This is a notable question. This has to be kept in