

common interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Central Government has constituted a Standing Commission which is a matter of pleasure for these people.

This Commission since its inception has been constantly presenting reports to the Government every year. More than 1000 recommendations for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been made but in this connection no concrete steps have been taken so far.

The aforesaid commission is not able to work effectively because it has not been made constitutionally powerful and effective.

Therefore, I will suggest that it is the duty of the Government to accelerate the welfare work for these classes keeping in mind the principle of '*Bahu jana hitaya, ba'hu jana sukhaya*'. This Commission should be granted the powers of enquiry and should be given a constitutional status.

(ii) Steps needed to give relief to the drought affected people of Chikballapur area in Karnatka

12.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

\*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : Many parts of the Karnataka State are reeling under severe drought for the past few years. Especially Chikballapura area in Karnataka is the worst hit by drought. This has affected agricultural production and created a severe crisis of drinking water in this area. Due to continuing drought, fodder is not available here which has resulted in the death of many cattles. The water level of tanks, wells etc. has gone down and has created serious problem to the people. Several people have already migrated to the neighbouring states in search of employment.

I therefore urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to give

---

\*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

relief to the drought affected population of this area by supplying portable water, fodder, etc. Tube wells should be dug and deepened in this area to rescue the farmers from the severity of drought. The Government should also take measures to provide employment to the unemployed persons of this drought affected area.

[*English*]

(iii) Augmentation of travelling facilities to the people travelling from Orissa to Surat and Ahmedabad

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Lakhs of workers from Orissa are residing at Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat State. Since long there was genuine demand to give them railway facilities to travel from these places to Orissa. Now Ahmedabad-Hyderabad Express will be running from 1st April, 1987. At least two additional coaches in Ahmedabad-Hyderabad Express may be provided for people of Orissa to facilitate travel from Ahmedabad to Orissa and vice-versa. These two coaches may be attached to Konark Express at Hyderabad so that the workers and people of Orissa in large numbers can easily travel from Orissa to Surat and Ahmedabad which is a long pending demand.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to construct bridges over Kareh and Bagmati rivers in Darbhanga and Samastipur districts of Bihar

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the area of my constituency comprising Darbhanga and Samastipur districts is a flood-prone one. There are several rivers flowing between these two districts which are separating them by hundreds of miles. Hence, it is essential for the Central Government to get the Larjbaghat bridge near Hasanpur, the Rajghat bridge in between Scindia and Hasanpur, the Barhiahatighat bridge near Baheri, the Goharghat bridge and the Hathorighat bridge on the Kareh and Bagmati rivers constructed. This area is the most backward area in the

[Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan]

country. Due to lack of bridges on these rivers, thousands of people and animals are washed away by floods during rains. But the Government has not paid any attention to it inspite of repeated appeals in this regard.

Hence, the Government is requested to construct the Larjhaghat, Rajghat, Bariahatighat, Goharghat and Hathorighat bridges without any further delay and also a bridge over the Bagmati Barri river.

[English]

(v) Need to increase the subsidy to Tuberculosis Hospital, Andul Road, Howrah to ensure better services to ESI patients

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Sir, I wish to draw attention of the Government to the problem faced by the Howrah Tuberculosis Hospital, Andul Road, Howrah. This Hospital is maintaining 15 reserved beds for inpatient treatment of the beneficiaries under E.S.I. (MB) scheme as per terms agreed as far back as 1974. Under this scheme the said hospital gets reimbursement at the rate of Rs. 300/- per bed per-month from the ESI authorities as bed charges.

Since then there has been steep escalation in prices making it impossible for the Hospital to maintain the said arrangement under the old rates of reimbursement. Therefore, the Hospital authorities made a request as early as in January 1981 for adequate increase in bed charges commensurate with the market price. This request was followed up by several reminders but without any avail. In fact West Bengal Government have also made favourable recommendations supporting the hospital's genuine demand. But still the ESI authorities have not taken any decision to increase the reimbursement rate which at present comes to about Rs. 605 per bed or even higher.

I therefore urge upon the Government to immediately sanction the increased rate of subsidy to the above Hospital so that they can continue to serve the ESI patients.

[Translation]

(vi) Demand for construction of a new overbridge at Khandwa junction in Madhya Pradesh on priority basis

SHRI KALICHARAN SAKARGAYEN (Khandwa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Khandwa city is a junction station of the Central Railway. The railway line divides the city into two parts. These parts are connected by a narrow overbridge which was constructed, about 70 or 75 years ago. When this bridge was constructed, the population of Khandwa was about 20,000 people who were settled on one side of the railway line. Only the district courts were on the other side.

Now the population of this city is more than 1 lakh and 20 thousands. Many large Mohallas, Schools, Colleges as also offices have been set up there. As a result, this overbridge has become absolutely unsuitable. Even two buses are able to cross each other with great difficulty resulting in traffic jams and many accidents. Two highways connecting the eastern and northern parts of the district with Harda, Hoshangabad, Bhopal and Baitul districts pass through this overbridge. The progress of Khandwa has come to a halt on account of this unsuitable overbridge.

The City Municipal Corporation and the representatives of the people have been constantly asking the railway administration for many years through the Government of Madhya Pradesh to construct a higher and broader overbridge. Some three years back, the Minister looking after the Public Works Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the competent Engineer jointly surveyed the area and selected a suitable site, but the construction work has not so far been approved.

The hon. Minister of State for Railway is requested to kindly grant sanction for the construction of this overbridge of public utility on a priority basis.

(vii) Demand for an AIR Station at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SATYANARAYAN PANWAR (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Ujjain