

[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

is a very ancient, historical and a religious city. It is still a very important centre of art and culture.

The Kumbha Mela occurring once in 12 years, Mahakalishwar, one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and the Shivratri celebration connected with it, the procession taken out in the month of 'Shravana' the seven day all India Kalidasa festival held in the memory of the great poet Kalidasa and such other innumerable celebrations solemnised there remind us of the cultural heritage of this place.

Lord Krishna had studied here with his friend Sudama under Sage Sandipan. But it is a matter of regret that budding litterateurs, artists and musicians are not getting any incentives and suitable opportunities for making progress even today. If an AIR station is opened at Ujjain, it will help considerably in promoting the folk art and folk music of the Malwa region in the country.

I am quite sure that if an AIR station is opened at Ujjain soon then our efforts to preserve the art and culture of Malwa will bear fruits.

I hope that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will accept the justification for opening an AIR station at Ujjain and will give its sanction at the earliest.

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[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88

—Contd.

12.36 hrs.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Shri P. Namgyal may please continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was speaking in connection with the LPG supply in the hilly areas yesterday. There are some problems in my constituency. I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that the LPG supply was started there 2 years ago and for which we are very grateful to the Government. You are aware that my constituency is in a very cold region, where the vegetation is almost nils and 95 per cent of the population is directly dependent on agriculture. Due to shortage of fuel, cow-dung which is essential for agriculture as manure, is used as fuel and due to this on the one hand, our agriculture is adversely affected for want of manure and on the other, due to the intense cold, the trees or small bushes are destroyed and burnt which affects the environment considerably resulting in scarcity of oxygen. You are aware of the efforts being made by our hon. Prime Minister to stabilise the environment. But felling of trees has adverse effect on the environment of our area and I can think of only one way of solving this problem. The people have greatly benefited by L.P.G. supply in my area. It has also resulted in considerable reduction in demand for kerosene oil because the consumption of the latter has gone down and the foreign exchange being spent on importing it, will be saved as well. Gas is a domestic produce therefore, I want that the LPG supply which has been started, should not be confined to the urban areas only but it should be supplied to the rural areas also.

At present two oil companies namely, the Indian Oil Corporation and the Hindustan Petroleum are engaged in the marketing of liquid petroleum gas there. One depot belonging to the Indian Oil Corporation was started in 1984 and the dealerthip was given on an *ad-hoc* basis. I have been requesting for the last two or three years to regularise it. One company cannot provide more than 5,000 gas connections means that two dealers will issue 10,000 gas connections in the region. I think that 10 thousand connections are just nothing, the main problem there is that gas cylinders are filled below and carried by trucks