

[Sh. Sudarsan Das]

Karimganj Districts, part of Manipur State, Mizoram State and Tripura State. The Railway Board completed a survey long time back to construct a new B.G. Railway line from Lanka Station on the main line to Silchar in Cachar District but the construction work has not yet started. If that is done, obviously this would mitigate the plight and miseries of millions of people living in that area.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Government of India to commence the work of construction of this new line expeditiously.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to enquire into growing irregularities in the functioning of Cooperatives in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cooperative movement is a strong pillar of our country's progress. With this objective in view, the Cooperative movement was started in our country so that helpless and poor farmers and labourers may be benefited. But with the passage of time, evils and corruption have crept in the Department of Cooperatives. Because of this poor farmers are facing difficulties. Many complaints have been received that the loans and fertilizers etc. given to the farmers and others for cultivation purposes by the Department of Cooperatives are shown more than actually given to them. At places, such serious complaints have also been made that fake loans are shown against the names of the farmers. Besides, cases have been reported where even after the payment of the loans by the farmers these are shown as outstanding against their names. All this leads to victimisation of the farmers and there have been cases where the farmers have even

been sentenced to improvement due to this reason.

I request the Central Government that a detailed enquiry should be held with regard to such cases, specially in Uttar Pradesh. There are farmers who have already re-paid their loans but amounts are being shown against their names or there are instances in which more balance has been shown than actually is due. Such things should be set right.

[English]

(v) Need to develop Colachel Port, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Colachel harbour of Tamil Nadu has to be developed at the earliest in the interest of revival of economic activities in the locality. This is the only harbour for Tamil Nadu on the West Coast. This is an ancient historical harbour. This harbour had regular trade and commerce with foreign countries till recently. The importance of this port is at a vanishing stage. The harbour has been neglected for long and its export potentiality has retarded and consequently the people of this area suffer economically. Trade and commerce in the locality would be revived if the port is developed. There is scope for export of marine foodstuffs, fibre, coir and other products from this port as there is no other nearby port. So, I urge upon the Government to take early steps for the development of Colachel port.

(vi) Need to provide adequate funds for the construction of bridges over rivers Khabuli and Lohit

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur): Majuli is the biggest river island in the world. It is situated only 35 km. from Lakhimpur district. Due to the absence of two bridges on