

the river *Khabuli* and *Luhit* it takes about 8 to 10 hours to reach Majuli from Lakhimpur thereby causing great transportation difficulties. Due to the absence of these two bridges it has caused inconvenience to the Government in supplying relief to the flood affected people.

In order to ensure development and progress of these two areas, construction of these two bridges are very essential and urgent.

I, therefore, request the Government to give priority to this problem and allocate adequate funds for construction of these two bridges over river *Khabuli* and *Luhit*, and thereby save the people from hardships without delay.

(vii) Need to ban contract marriages in Gujarat

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Taking advantage of the lacunae in the Bombay Stamp Act, 1958, married men legalize their liaison with other women without fear of being prosecuted for bigamy. The only thing the man has to do, to acquire a mistress was to get registered a contract deed with a woman in any taluka or District Registrar's office. Such contracts are registered in book number four under the Indian Registration Act, 1908.

The contract deeds include statements like "Since one of the party has wife, he cannot legally marry other party with whom he has been living together. Therefore, two parties willingly enter into contract abiding to live together and look after one another." These contracts are registered under different heads like "Friendship Contract", "Upa-Patni Contract", "Maitri Karar" etc.

Government put a ban on the registration of such contracts in 1981. Still, instead of calling these contracts as above, men and

women enter into "Service Contract" by which they agree to serve one another.

Despite the ban on "Maitri Karar", there is no provision in Government order for penal action for those who enter into such a contract.

Married men give advertisements in local papers giving their economic status and inviting applications from women willing to enter into "Maitri Karar". Girls fall an easy prey to such lucrative efforts, as it is very difficult to find suitable persons for marriage, without offering huge amounts of dowry.

The Local Registration Office keeps book number four a closely-guarded secret, and the police cannot do much, except issuing warning to some people.

I, therefore, appeal to hon. Minister to take immediate measures to ban such illegal and immoral contract marriages in Gujarat State.

(viii) Need to stop giving screening certificates to foreign films depicting sex and violence.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI (Madras South): Sir, in order to earn valuable foreign exchange, one of the methods adopted by the Government of India was the introduction of a new scheme in October 1984, under which the Non-Resident Indians have been allowed to import foreign feature films. According to the scheme, a NRI can import a foreign feature film against the payment of Rs. 1.9 lakhs per film to National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), a public sector organisation. But, Sir, under this Scheme, out of over 475 such films for which permission was sought, about 250 have been cleared after certification by the Censor Board. But the most shocking and demoralising effect is that the whole edifice of India's age-old culture and heritage, of which any Indian is proud, is in