

12. 14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to provide a new train by laying a new railway from the district headquarters of Azamgarh to Gusainganj via Atraulia-Basavari-Tanda for the development of these neglected area and in the wider public interest so that the people of these areas may have full advantage of the railway facilities and the Department of Railways may also earn profit.

(iv) Need to provide assistance to the people of Bihar, UP and Nepal affected by earthquake and floods

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been reported that the havoc created by the earthquake early in the morning of 21 August in the entire North Bihar and most parts of eastern Nepal claimed thousands of lives and caused a heavy loss of property worth crores of rupees. The irony is that these areas were already reeling under floods in rivers due to heavy rains in these parts. There is no doubt about the fact that the Central as well as the State Government paid immediate attention to this frightening situation and the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi accompanied by the Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad visited the site of the incident immediately and took prompt action to provide immediate succour. But till now a real assessment of the loss of lives and property has been made and in view of the seriousness of the situation, there is a need to provide more assistance. It may also be pointed out here that the impact of earthquake has been a little less in eastern Uttar Pradesh as compared to the impact of earthquake in these affected areas, but the ferocity of floods completed the circle. The Ghaghara, Rapti, Kauni, Taraina, Gouri rivers in Uttar Pradesh caused damage to residential units in addition to the loss caused in their respective areas. The entire area right from Sahajanawa to Gorakhpur city in Gorakhpur district is looking like an ocean.

Therefore, while drawing the attention of the Government to this frightening situation, I request them immediately to get the actual loss assessed by the experts and provide appropriate earthquake and flood relief to the affected people. I also want that keeping in view the extensive damage caused by the earthquake in our neighbouring country, Nepal, the Government should take initiative to provide adequate relief to the affected people of Nepal through their Government.

[*English*]

(v) Need for comprehensive national policy on Indian languages

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Ever since independence was attained in 1947, the Union Government has not formulated any coherent and comprehensive National Policy on Languages, their promotion and recognition. While the Sahitya Akademi and the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, have been giving some impetus to the growth of Indian languages and their literature, yet the resistance of the Government to include any more languages in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution after Sindhi, has deprived many developing languages, like Manipuri, Konkani, Malyali, etc. which are recognised by Sahitya Akademi and other Pahari of Himachal Pradesh and Khasi in Meghalaya as also the seven major tribal languages pressing their claims for recognition by the Sahitya Akademi and inclusion in the 8th Schedule of their due status. The classical languages like Sanskrit, Pali, Persian and a widely spoken languages like Urdu find their future to be uncertain on account of occasional shift on emphasis on language study to other more lucrative subject groups in the educational system. The three language formula has been interpreted in many convenient ways by State Governments. Some resistance to Hindi still continues.

So, it is high time that a well defined coherent and comprehensive National Policy on Indian Languages is formulated by the Union Government in consultation