

[Shri Sarfaraj Ahmad]

of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar.

- (vii) Need for early completion of railway projects in the North-Eastern parts of India.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker Sir, the sanctioned projects for expansion of railways for the development of north eastern States and Union territories are lying incomplete due to lack of funds and inefficiency of the construction authorities. Even after the partition of the country, Tripura was not there in the map of Indian Railways. In 1964, the first attempt was made to connect this region with railway lines. There was a plan to lay a 33 kilometre long railway line from Kalighat to Dharam Nagar and the State Government had proposed to extend the same up to Kumraghat. There was a provision for spending Rs. 30 crores on this project, but till now a sum of Rs. 16 crores has been spent. An amount of Rs. 1.63 crores has been spent on the project of railway-line from Nilpara (Assam) to Malikyog (Arunachal) which is about 31.46 kilometre long. On Lala Bazar—Lalaghat-Merawal railway line, which is 49 kms. long and which will cost Rs. 26 crores, only Rs. 10 crores have been spent so far. Another project of Eklahi to Maldah which is to be completed with an expenditure of Rs. 42 crores is still incomplete and only Rs. 50 lakhs have been spent on it so far. All the railway line projects of this area are lying incomplete. Due to lack of transport facilities, many undersirable incidents are taking place in this area which are creating suspicion and fear in the society. If timely action is not taken for the development of this region, these problems, which appear to be minor, will assume huge proportion and will affect the entire country. So, I request the Government to pay special attention to this problem and clear the obstacles which come in the way of developmental activities there.

[English]

- (viii) Need to provide diesel oil at subsidised rates to smaller fishermen of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is a pity that Government is discriminating between fishermen operating big trawlers and the others using smaller ones in the matter of allowing subsidy on HSD oil the price of which has risen steeply.

I may mention that the present nearly 900 or so small fishermen are using mechanised boats catching fish and other marine products. As Government is no doubt aware that the price of H.S.D. oil has been rising consistently since 1975 and the smaller fishermen using mechanised boats are now feeling the pinch of the steep rise in the price of the H.S.D. oil and have been requesting them to give them H.S.D. oil at subsidised rates. In fact, fishermen using big trawlers are already getting H.S.D. oil at subsidised rates. The small fishermen have more deserving case because their only source of livelihood is to catch from the sea and they are finding it difficult to compete with big trawlers, who besides having other advantages over the smaller fishermen get H.S.D. at subsidised rate. The fishermen have already sent number of representations. Moreover if these fishermen are helped they can increase their output and help in increasing exports to earn foreign exchange.

I, therefore, request the Government to come to the rescue of the smaller fishermen of Kakinada and to give them diesel oil at subsidised rates.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (General)
1986-87—Contd.

(1) Ministry of Home Affairs—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of