

line in this area, which has resulted in the backwardness in this area. This area had made a great contribution in attaining the independence, but even after 39 years of independence this area remains undeveloped.

Therefore, I request the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Railways that the work regarding conversion of the Shahganj Azamgarh-Mau-Balia metre gauge line into broad gauge line may be started without further delay.

[English]

(vii) Need to sanction an amount of Rs. 80 crores for construction of Mankhurd-Belapur Railway Line in Bombay

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Vashi and New Bombay have been developed during the last five years. More than five lakh people reside in New Bombay. Hundreds of new big and small factories are located in this area. Length of the Mankhurd Belapur Railway Line Project is 17 KM and it includes 2 KM long railway bridge at Vashi. Railway Ministry approved this Project in 1983-84 and the present estimated cost of this project is Rs. 160 crores. Railway Ministry have so far provided Rs. 3,75,00,000 during the last three years.

The State Government have agreed that funds of the order of Rs. 80 crores for the Project would be raised through debentures being floated by CIPCO and the remaining amount would be provided by Railways. The contribution of Maharashtra Government will be released in five years in a phased manner. I, therefore, appeal to Railway Ministry to sanction an amount of Rs. 80 crores in a phased manner in five years. This Railway line will be so economical that the money invested by Railways over this Project will be recovered in five years time.

13.33 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : NEED TO PRESERVE THE SANCTITY AND DIGNITY OF THE NATIONAL SYMBOLS—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now

take up further discussion, under Rule 193, on the need to preserve sanctity and dignity of the National Symbols.

Shri Aziz Qureshi.

[Translation]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the national flag or the national anthem of any nation are the symbols of the national honour, unity and integrity of that country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily welcome the statement of the Prime Minister made in the House yesterday in this regard and I hope, that it would remove doubts, if any, created in the minds of the people. Actually the aim behind raising this controversy and showing disrespect to the national flag and the national anthem is to harm the unity and the integrity of the country. These are the people who do not have the courage to speak openly that the unity and the integrity of the country should be harmed. Instead they attack our national flag and anthem and thus raise a controversy. Yesterday, my colleague Shri Jaipal Reddy and some others wanted to know why the Congressmen used the Tricolour and why the Congress Party held its meetings under the Tricolour. Such people neither know the history of this nation nor are they aware of the freedom struggle, otherwise they would not have stated such a thing. The people who first visualised the national flag were none other than the Congressmen. The Congressmen unfurled the flag for the very first time as far back as 7th August, 1906 at Parsi Bagan Square and it was unfurled the second time in Paris in 1907 when madam Cama and her followers were deported. Dr. Annie Besant and Shri Tilak unfurled this flag in 1912 the third time but all the three times the form of this flag was not like the one which we have at present. How strange it is that Shri Jaipal Reddy is not aware of this historical fact that when the session of Congress Party was held in 1912 in Andhra Pradesh; the home State of Shri Jaipal Reddy, a youngman for the first time presented and unfurled this flag. Thereafter, Mahatma Gandhi improved it and included white colour and spinning wheel in the flag. Thereafter, the tricolour flag was adopted as the flag of the Congress Party. Then in 1931, during the session of