

of traffic on the roads. The introduction of this system will also have its impact on the development of the national economy. I, therefore, urge the Government to take early steps to provide underground metro rail system in big cities like Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras and Delhi.

- (viii) Demand for looking into grievances of the Marathi-speaking people residing in Karnataka-Maharashtra border area

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Ten Lakh Marathi speaking people are staying at Belgum, Nipani, Karwar, Khanapur at Karnataka-Maharashtra Border and they are attached to Maharashtra in their living habits, religion, language etc. They are forming a big majority of about 75 per cent of the total population of this area and at many places like Nipani, Khanapur, it is more than 90 per cent.

Mahajan Commission was appointed without any terms of reference at the time of State reorganisation and this area was wrongly included in Karnataka and similarly about two hundred villages which are having Kannada speaking majority were kept in Maharashtra. Marathi speaking people from Border area are having three days dharna at Boat Club from 5th November, 1986.

The Karnataka Government passed a resolution in the Assembly in 1982 making Kannada language compulsory from the 1st Standard in Non-Kannada Schools. Hundred per cent Marathi speaking school teachers were appointed to teach Kannada language. Because of this Kannada teaching, about five hundred Marathi schools were closed for four months.

The Government have already agreed that the recommendations of Mahajan Commission are not final. Further, Central Government has left this issue to the Chief Ministers of both States. Series of meetings took place between the two Chief Ministers but both the Chief Ministers are bound by the decisions taken by their respective Assemblies unanimously and therefore I urge upon the Prime Minister that this issue will not be solved without interference of the Central Government.

I also urge upon Prime Minister that the well-known principles for State reorganisation like simple majority of villages, continuity of the border may be applied to this area.

- (ix) Demand for examining telecasting of a distorted projection of personal life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a Doordarshan Serial 'Raj Se Swaraj'

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : The entire nation has lowered down her head in shame for the reprehensibly derogatory manner in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been recently depicted in a Doordarshan serial, 'Raj Se Swaraj'. People all over India representing almost all walks of life have expressed their resentment against this untrue distorted projection of personal life of Netaji Subhas Bose. Along with hundreds of ex-INA soldiers, Capt. Shrimati Lakshmi Sehgal (Swaminathan) of Azad Hind Fouz has raised a vehement protest against such a filming. Proper investigation regarding how and which way this particular film was produced and projected, should be made. Government should examine as to how and on whose clearance, Doordarshan exhibited it, and should place the report before Parliament. The responsibility for this should be fixed, and the offender be punished suitably. The whole system of Doordarshan exhibition appears to be faulty. It should, therefore, be recast, for ensuring proper check-up at a higher political level.

[Translation]

- (x) Demand for ensuring a remunerative price of cotton for the benefit of cotton growers

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI (Bhatinda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the cotton-growers in the country today particularly those of Muktsar, Abohar, Fazilka, Bhatinda, Bareta, Rampura Phool has become pitiable and consequently they have become hapless. The farmers have increased their cotton produce through hard work and proper planning as compared to that during the previous years in spite of the recent drought and excess rains. The Government have also recently announced the increase in the support price

of cotton by five rupees per quintal in comparison with that during the previous years and has also announced long term cotton export policy. As many as 6 lakh bales of cotton will be exported from the country every year for three years. The announcement of export policy will increase the demand of cotton but there is no effective arrangements made to pass on the benefit of the increased demand to the farmer. The farmers are not in a position to sell their produce in an open market on reasonable price. The Government have not made any effective arrangements to buy the produce of the farmer at the support price. In the circumstances, the farmer has to suffer loss even after producing a bumper crop. He is compelled to sell his produce in the open market at a price less than the support price. I, therefore, request the Government to make such arrangements at the earliest as to guarantee the support price to the farmer and also to save him from the exploitation he is undergoing.

12.24 hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Agitation for a separate State by Gorkha National Liberation Front

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The situation arising out of the agitation for a separate State launched by the Gorkha National Liberation Front and the action taken by the Government in that regard.”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, The agitation of the Gorkha National Liberation Front is reported to be mainly for the creation of “Gorkhaland” as a separate State within the Union of India and for the abrogation of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty of 1950.

As the House is aware, there have been a number of law and order incidents in the last few months in the Darjeeling Hills area of West Bengal arising out of the agitation of the GNLF. I shall very briefly mention some of the major incidents.

The GNLF organised a 72-hour bandh from May 12 to 14, 1986 during which there were several incidents of violence and one person died in police firing. On May 25, 1986 following the arrest of some persons involved in some cases, GNLF supporters at Kurseong took out a procession violated prohibitory orders and attacked police personnel. Police opened fire resulting in the death of 5 persons and injuries to 2 others.

On July 27, 1986, GNLF supporters burnt copies of Article 7 of the Indo-Nepal Friendship Treaty in various places. There was a violent attack on the police at Kalimpong and the police had to open fire. According to the Government of West Bengal, 13 persons died in the firing and 38 were injured, while among the police, one was killed and a large number injured. From the next day, began a 108-hour bandh in Darjeeling and other areas.

The GNLF announced boycott of the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 1986 and instead hoist black flags. They also announced blockade of the movement of timber from the hill areas to the plains from August 23, 1986. However, on August 14, 1986, Shri Subash Ghisingh, President of the GNLF, announced the suspension of the agitation for one month.

Since September, 1986, there have been a number of incidents of violence, many of which involved confrontation and clashes between the supporters of GNLF and CPM. The State Government has from time to time requested the Central Government to provide para-military forces and these requests have been promptly attended to. At present, there are 14 companies of CRPF and 2 companies of BSF in the Darjeeling area.

Government of India are opposed to the division of West Bengal and have categorically rejected the demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland. Government of West Bengal