

also when the national average of poverty has fallen to 30 per cent, it is 48 per cent in Bihar and it is still higher in North Bihar. Thousands of agriculture labourers used to go to Punjab, Haryana and Assam in search of livelihood, but in the present context this too has almost stopped. It is not only in the special interest of the region but also in the interest of the whole country that regional imbalance should be removed.

With this special mention I call the attention of the Central Government to it and request that in order to deal with this problem, a big industry should be set up in Saran division of North Bihar where there is no industry at all excepting one or two sick sugar mills.

- (iv) **Need to rationalise the fares according to distance from Bangalore to Gooty and Bangalore to Anantapur.**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): The broad gauge conversion project between Bangalore, and Gooty was completed at a cost of Rs. 43 crores in the year 1981. In order to reconp the cost of the conversion the railways were to collect "inflated mileage" charge over and above the usual train fare from passengers for a period of five years only. This project was completed in 1981 and the five year period ended by 1986 but even now this inflated railway charge is being collected.

The distance between Gooty and Bangalore is only 264 Kilometres but the inflated mileage is being collected for 349 kms. Railways are collecting Rs 41/- instead of actual fare of Rs. 34 for Express trains, thus railways are collecting Rs 7/- more per ticket from each passenger.

The distance between Bangalore and Anantapur is only 212 kms, but the railways are collecting fare for 277 kms. in the name of inflated mileage. A passenger travelling between Anantapur and Bangalore by Ex-

press train is paying Rs. 36/- instead of Rs. 31 and for passenger train they are collecting Rs. 26. instead of Rs 17/-

I request the Railway Minister to look into the matter and rationalism the fares according to the actual distance.

[Translation]

- (v) **Need to clear Mohane Dam and Punpun Dargha Irrigation Projects of Bihar.**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a predominantly agricultural country. 80 per cent of its population depends on agriculture. Land of our country is highly fertile but due to non-availability of permanent irrigation facilities, it is becoming uneconomical. Farmers are distracting from agriculture, the result is that our country is passing through economic crisis. Many irrigation projects have been formulated and submitted by State Governments to the Central Government for its clearance. These projects have been lying with centre for clearance for a long time. The cost of some of the projects have gone up by 4 times of their original costs estimated at the time of submission. Mohane Dam Project and Punpun Dargha project, were submitted to the Central Government from our area in 1975 and 1980 respectively but these have still not been cleared.

I would like to impress upon the Government that the increasing tendency to delay the clearance of projects on its part is required to be curbed otherwise it will create problem not only for farmers but this will result in shortage of foodgrains in the country. It is, therefore, requested that the Government should accord its sanction to both of irrigation projects of my area pending with it and include them in Eighth Five Year Plan for execution. After completion of these projects, completed, Jahanabad constituency will be free from drought and floods for ever.