

Maithili and many saints and sadhus have given their sermons to the humanity in this language. The people of that area have been forcefully demanding for the inclusion of Mathili language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution for the last twenty years. Therefore, being a public representative, I request the Central Government to consider this matter of including Maithili language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

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

12.11 hrs.

(ii) Need to provide additional railway lines in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh is a Harijan Adivasi dominated area. There are six Members of Parliament from this area out of which there are in Rajya Sabha and three are in Lok Sabha. Out of these seats only our seat is general. It proves that it is a Harijan-Adivasi dominated area. This district provides coal, aluminium, dolomite, cement, electricity and paper in abundance. This area is rich in mineral wealth. South-Eastern Railways load 4700 wagons per day in this area and this area contributes 1/9th part towards the total income of the Railways.

In view of the above facts, I request the Central Government to provide new railway lines in that area which are necessary for movement of traffic. When this district contributes a major portion towards the railway income, the Bilaspur must be connected with Jabalpur via Munjelli Manjla. This line should be linked with Malaj Khand Copper reserves. Similarly so many cement factories have been set up in a row in Bilaspur and Raipur districts. They should be connected with Raipur from Champa via Pamangarh to ease the heavy pressure on the Railway line. A new railway line should be laid from Korba via Bilaspur to link it with South India.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Need to direct the State Government to ensure timely payment of compensation to farmers for lands acquired for public use in the tribal district of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the district of Bastar, land is acquired for the construction of Government buildings, rural roads and dams etc. but compensation is not paid to the farmers for 5 to 6 years. The farmers effected by the projects prepared for the welfare of the people sacrifice their own interests in the public interest but are disappointed by the delay in getting compensation and therefore become opposed to the popular projects. Their papers keep shifting from one table to another for years.

Hence, it is requested that the Central Government should issue specific instructions to the Governments in this connection and advise them to launch a campaign to decide pending cases of compensation at the earliest and make payment within a stipulated period so that Government continue to get full cooperation of the people in projects of public interest to be taken in hand by the Government in future and the backward areas make rapid strides constantly.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Needed to issue a commemorative stamp in memory of Maharishi Dadhichi.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the fissiparous tendencies are to-day raising their heads in the country and the lessons of unity and integrity of the country and social tolerance given by our saints and seers centuries ago on which the foundation of a new India was laid by the nation builders now carry a question mark.

The present Government has made laudable efforts in presenting the lives and teachings of saints and seers in various ways before the country and the world. Bringing out commemorative stamps on

[Shri Madan Pandey]

such saints is one of such acts. It is also a matter of satisfaction that commemorative stamps on most of the saints and great men have been issued. However, there are still some personalities left whose lives should be made known to the people not only through books but also through postage stamps.

One such saint was Maharishi Dadhichi. When his bones were required for the projection of human values, he went into a trance after applying salt on his body and allowed it to be licked slowly by the cows and in this manner he sacrificed himself and his bones were used to manufacture arms by which the destructive forces were destroyed.

Hence I request the Minister of Communications that in the present circumstances, in order to build up an environment against terrorism, a postage stamp commemorating the sacrifice of Maharishi Dadhichi should be issued. Similarly, the sublime lives of the pre-historic saints and sages of India should be propagated towards which the attention of the Government has not been drawn so far.

[English]

- (v) Need to take necessary measures to help the small newspapers in the country, particularly those published in the rural areas.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): I would like to invite the attention of the House and the Government to the real danger of freedom of press which has arisen as a result of the growing monopolistic tendencies in Indian journalism. Already Indian Press is, to a large extent, dominated by half a dozen big newspaper establishments controlled by big capitalists having annual turnover of crores of rupees. With the phenomenal technological development there is real apprehension that this has further increased the strength of the big establishments and harmed the small newspapers.

Small newspapers are the real grassroots of Indian journalism. They are published in local languages and have rapport with our rural masses. There is growing tendency in rural areas to buy newspapers but people in these areas can ill-afford to buy more than one newspaper. It is these newspapers which alone can transmit the message of the Government relating to 20-point programme and developmental activities in general. They are the genuine organs of ventilating peoples' grievances and problems.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take the following immediate steps to strengthen these small newspapers, particularly those in rural areas :—

1. As recommended by the Second Press Commission, a Newspaper Finance Corporation should be immediately established in order to help financially these small newspapers ;
2. The news agencies like PTI and UNI should be directed to change small newspapers at subsidised rates ;
3. The Ministry of Tele communication should give substantial concessions to these small newspapers in the matter of postal charges, telephone charges and teleprinter charges ;
4. The DAVP may be asked to revise its advertisement policy and release major portion of its budget to small newspapers, and completely stop advertisements relating to family planning, 20-point Programme and agricultural development to English Newspapers, as only 3 per cent of the people in India understand English.

These steps, in my views, are very necessary because it is these small newspapers which really help the cause of communal harmony and national integration.