

[Sh. G.S. Basavaraju] was stopped midway while being loaded into containers. The ship left the port without the cargo. The ship owners, agents and C.F. agents, who are involved in this, have failed in their efforts.

The general cargo export had declined by more than 30 per cent in 1987-88 from New Mangalore Port, mainly due to labour problems and the export of cashew kernels also declined during 1987-88.

I urge the Union Minister of State for Shipping Transport to intervene and settle the labour problems without further delay. Otherwise this will affect the country.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) Demand for directives to nationalised and co-operative Banks to grant loans to farmers etc. affected by heavy rains

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, heavy rains in Maharashtra specially in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Bombay this year have caused huge loss of life, wealth and crops. I urge the Central Government to give financial assistance to Maharashtra and also issue directives to the Reserve Bank and other financial institutions to liberalise the rules governing the advance of loans to farmers by the nationalised and co-operative Banks. Then we would be able to help the people belonging to the economically weaker sections and farmers throughout the country.

- (iv) Demand for re-scheduling timings of trains running between Barmer and Agra Fort.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Barmer-Agra Fort 207 up and 208 Down Express Train is an important train of the country which covers a distance of 850 kilometers. This train maintains the prescribed speed of an Express train from Barmer to Jaipur but

from Jaipur to Agra Fort it runs as a passenger train although it is an express train.

From Phulera to Agra Fort it remains under the charge of the Western Railway but their work is very unsatisfactory. At Agra Fort good coaches of the train are changed and the coaches are not looked after properly.

I, therefore, request the Ministry of Railways to convert one of the 'Hawa Mahal' trains running between Barmer and Agra Fort and between Jaipur and Agra Fort into Barmer-Agra Fort Express with at least 15 coaches and its starting time from Barmer should be 4.30 P.M. instead of 4.00 P.M. and its arrival time should be 11 A.M. instead of 11.15 A.M. so that the utility of the Barmer Agra Fort Express is in the interest of the people. A passenger train comprising the remaining coaches be introduced between Jaipur and Agra by the Western Railway.

- (v) Demand for a bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court in Chhatisgarh region.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the policy of the Government to provide easy and cheap justice to the poor at their foot steps and that is why Lok Adalats are held.

Under this very policy, Madhya Pradesh Government has taken a decision that a bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court should be set up in its Chhatisgarh region where one-third of the population comprises of Harijans, Adivasis and backward classes. The Central Government has given its approval but for the last two years the matter is still lying pending. The people of Chhatisgarh has been demanding it continuously and as their demand is not being fulfilled, they think that they are being ignored.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Law and Justice to set up a bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court immediately in district Bilaspur which is quite a suitable place for that purpose even according to the previous records. The Central Government should

emphasise the State Government to implement immediately this long awaited decision which has been approved by both the Central Government as well as the State Government.

[English]

(vi) Demand for a State Coaching Centre of NIS In Cannanore (Kerala)

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): Sir, the people of Kerala and especially the sports lovers and eminent sportsmen of Cannanore District have been yearning for a State Coaching Centre of NIS in Kerala.

Assurance had been given by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs that the setting up of a State level NIS centre in Kerala will be favourably considered when a site is obtained. The Kerala Government have identified and offered two or three sites in and around Cannanore for this purpose. However, no positive action has been taken yet.

Kerala has always offered a large number of sports talents and has a wealth of promising athletes too. NIS Regional Centre functioning at Bangalore should not be allowed to stand in the way of setting up of a unit in Kerala.

The Ministry for Sports and Youth Affairs may kindly come forward to initiate steps for setting up a State Coaching Centre of NIS in Cannanore in Kerala at the earliest.

(vii) Demand for filling up vacant posts in Regional Oilseeds Research Station, Kadiri In Anantapur district (Andhra Pradesh)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): A Regional Oilseeds Research Station was started at Kadiri in Anantapur District in 1955 and the posts of three Research Assistants and one Plant Breeder were sanctioned in 1985 only. This appears

to be the only Research Station in Andhra Pradesh which has released varieties in Groundnut namely Kadiri-1, Kadiri-2 and Kadiri-3.

As the plant breeders post was filled up only in 1957 and the station was headed by Assistants only till then no progress was made during the last 10 years. At present nearly 700 groundnut cultures are being tested during this year. Crossing programme was started last year to develop varieties with early duration, high yield and resistance to drought and diseases. Research could not proceed at a fast pace as post of one Assistant Research Officer in Agronomy, two in Breeding and one in Extension were vacant. The vacant posts may be filled up immediately and the station provided with further additional staff and land, for which proposals submitted to ICAR are pending since 1987.

It is requested that the Central Government may be pleased to fill up the vacant posts, and accord permission for strengthening the station with additional staff and land as these proposals are pending with ICAR and AP Agriculture University since 1987.

(viii) Demand for restoring the original timings of the Mahalaxmi Express starting from Bangalore

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): The decision of the railway authorities to delink the existing connection at Miraj between the Metre gauge Mahalakshmi Express from Bangalore and the Kolhapur-Bombay Mahalakshmi Express on the broad gauge from November 1 will affect large number of passengers from Chickmagalur, Hassan, Shimoga, Uttar Kannada, Chitradurga, Bellary, Dharwa and Belgaum District of Karnataka.

Because of the change in the timings of the Mahalakshmi Express, people travelling from Karnataka to Bombay will have to spend 5 more hours.