

This railway line connecting these places will be economically viable. As these talukas are backward, introduction of railway system there will go a long way in removing their backwardness.

I understand that there is a proposal for extending the railway facility from Villivalkam to Anna Nagar in Madras and then to Tambaram. This railway link facility can also be extended to Sriperumbudur via Poona-mallee. From Avadi also, the railway line can be extended to Sriperumbudur via Poona-mallee. I request the Railway Minister to kindly look into this and include construction of this new railway line connecting Sriperumbudur in the 8th Plan.

- (ii) Demand for declaring Sorsan in Kota district of Rajasthan a game sanctuary

SHRI JUHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): Forest and wild life have suffered a set back since independence. Lakhs of hectares of rich forest areas and thousands of animals of different species have been destroyed in the last four decades to the extent that some of the animal and bird species have been left only in small pockets.

Great Indian Bustard is an Indian bird whose population has been reduced to less than 500 birds and it has been declared an endangered species by Government of India. One of the most important habitats of Great Indian Bustard at present is around village Sorsan in District Kota of Rajasthan. It has been admitted by the wild-life lovers and environmentalists that now Great Indian Bustard could be spotted only at Sorsan.

It is unfortunate that inspite of the keen interest of the local population to protect the bird and other endangered species of wild life like the Black Buck and the Chinkaras, the Government of Rajasthan is shying away to declare Sorsan as a Game Sanctuary.

With the decision of Government of Rajasthan to establish a Fertiliser Factory close to Sorsan, it is feared that mining activities will start in the Sorsan plateau disturbing and even destroying the endangered species of Great Indian Bustard.

In view of the urgency, I will request Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests, Government of India to take early steps to declare Sorsan as a Game Sanctuary.

- (iii) Demand for Constructing overbridges over National Highway No. 34 near railway level crossings at Dalkola railway station and Kishanganj

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj): I like to draw attention of the Hon. Minister for Railway to the following:—

Dalkola in the district of West Dinajpur in West Bengal is a Railway Station on N.F. Railway. The level crossing near the station is closed many times at day and night as a result of which traffic jam occurs on National Highway No. 34 on both sides of the crossing. National Highway No. 34 is the only road from Calcutta to Siliguri and hence frequent traffic jams due to this level crossing are very much undesirable. To solve the problem, a proposal of an overbridge near the level crossing has already been sanctioned and lands for the bye-pass also acquired and even compensation money has been paid to the cultivators, but still the work for constructing the overbridge has not been started.

National Highway No. 34 also passes across the Railway level crossing at Kishanganj and similar traffic jams occur. So an overbridge should be soon constructed near this crossing too.

New Jalpaiguri Station is far away from Siliguri Town. The road to the Station from Siliguri has to cross a Railway level crossing where traffic jam occurs and hence, some-way has to be found out to solve this problem.