

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

fitness of the donors are also not undertaken. It is further reported that the private blood banks pay only Rs. 40—to the donors per bottle of blood, while they charge exorbitantly from the users who need the precious blood in emergencies. The middle men engaged in the business also make profits at the expense of the poor blood donors. The authorities entrusted with enforcing the regulations in respect of blood donations should gear themselves up and put an end to all these malpractices. The profiteers engaged in the business should also be rounded up.

(iv) Need for dropping the scheme of Railway Terminal at Byrnihat in Meghalaya

SHRI BAJUBAN R. KHARLUKHI (Shillong) : The Government of India proposed to introduce a terminal point at Byrnihat in the East Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya and plans are being speeded up for its early completion.

Government of India are considering the long term benefits of the scheme from the point of boosting up the economy of the tribal people and to provide adequate infrastructure, for industrial growth and development, nevertheless, the said scheme is viewed with deep and serious apprehension by the tribals of Meghalaya.

Very recently, bands and demonstrations were organised at different parts of the State to express opposition to the introduction of a railway terminal point and such opposition was also demonstrated by members of the Khasi Hills District Council in a joint resolution adopted and circulated to different Government Departments and the State Government functionaries.

The general apprehension prevailing among the tribal people of Meghalaya is that the introduction and presence of a railway terminal point at Byrnihat

would pose a very serious threat to their existence, constituting as they are, a minority group in the vast and varied population of India. Infiltration is bound to come in endless stream and would subsequently destroy the population structure. The position as it is obtaining at present is that infiltration is the major issue which is agitating the public mind. There have been now many localities in Meghalaya where the tribal population has been reduced to minority.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take immediate decision to drop the scheme once for all in the larger interest or protecting the distinct identity of the tribal people.

(v) Need for augmenting the tempo of coal Exploration in Orissa

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Orissa accounts for about 3% of the total coal production in the country. The total coal bearing area in the State in Talcher and If valley coalfields is approximately 3000 sq. kms with only 10% of the total resources of coal established are of the order of 5,800 million tonnes. Recent exploration activities have resulted in the discovery of thick coal seams to the west of the present mining areas in Talcher field. There is positive indication about occurrence of large deposits of coal around Gopalpur in Sundergarh district.

Most of these coal resources can be easily explored with low overburden to coal ratio. It is, therefore, desirable that the present tempo of exploration to prove the resources of coal should not only be maintained, but should be substantially augmented during the remaining years of the Sixth Plan.

As the resources of coal available in Orissa are essentially of thermal grade, development and utilisation of coal resources should be accorded to priority by the Government of India. I demand