

17.13 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN REGION

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): I beg to move the following Resolution:

"This House urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for industrial development of the eastern region of the country, particularly Orissa, in view of the utter economic backwardness of that part of the country."

Despite planning for the last two decades in this country, Orissa's economy continues to remain sick even today. The pressure of population on land continues to grow and the pace of industrialisation remains as slow as over in Orissa and also in the rest of the eastern region of the country.

17.15 hrs.

[SHRI SEZHIYAN in the Chair]

A study was made by the Planning Commission as to the extent of regional imbalances that prevailed during the last three Plans in some of the areas in the eastern region and they came to the conclusion—the study revealed that States like Assam, Orissa, Bihar and the new States that have been created in the eastern region continue to remain completely backward. The study of the Planning Commission has shown that in respect of the number of factories in this region which were set up earlier, Orissa and Bihar in the eastern region have lost their earlier positions. As regards the number of persons employed, Orissa also has lost its earlier position.

So far as per capita consumption of electricity is concerned, Orissa today ranks 12th in the whole of the country. The working group which went into the identification of the backward areas in the country has also classified Orissa, Assam, West Bengal and the other parts of the eastern region as industrially backward qualifying for special incentives and assistance from the Centre for their rapid economic growth.

Now, let me place the tragic picture of the all-along backwardness of the eastern region of the country before the House. One of the criteria and judgments of backwardness is the distribution of backward population. It has been found that Orissa's population of the backward section is the highest in the country, and it constitutes 40 per cent; in Assam, it is 24 per cent; Bihar, 23 per cent; West Bengal, 26 per cent. If we add the economically backward sections of our population, they form 80 per cent so far as Orissa is concerned. West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and other States in the eastern region which have been newly created, they do not fare any better. If you look at the ratio of rural and urban population which is a sign of development in the States, we find that Orissa's urban population during the last 25 years constitutes only six per cent; Bihar, eight per cent; Assam, eight per cent; the other States in the eastern region are also in the same category.

The number of factories that are established in Orissa is going down. In the year 1968, the total number of working factories in Orissa was 1,129. In 1969 it came down to 1,050; in 1970 it was 1,064 and in 1971, it came down to 938. I hope today the position is no better.

If you look into the State-wise per capita income, which, an indication of the development of a State or the prosperity of the individual or the

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people in that State, you find that the per capita income in Orissa is Rs. 325 which is the lowest in the country today; for Bihar, it is Rs. 402; West Bengal, Rs. 529; Assam, Rs. 545; Haryana, a State which was created recently, has a per capita income of Rs. 788; Maharashtra, Rs. 778. Punjab's is the highest in the country, with Rs. 945.

One surprising factor is that the per capita income in Orissa which was Rs. 325 in 1967-68, was higher in 1964-65; it was then Rs. 347. It has now been reduced to Rs. 325.

Today, we are giving more importance to agriculture because today famine conditions are prevailing all over the country, and we have already imported foodgrains and are thinking of importing foodgrains in huge quantities to serve the needs of the people. Irrigation is one of the crying needs of our times, and you will find that in that respect also, the total irrigated area in Orissa is 15.21 per cent; Assam, 25.57 per cent; Bihar, 18.58 per cent; West Bengal, 22.17 per cent; I must congratulate you, Sir,—you are now in the Chair—that in Tamil Nadu you have an irrigated area of 32.67 per cent and it is due to your efforts. We must be grateful for that, and you have done it. In Punjab it is 30 per cent.

You will be surprised to know that today we are losing so much of crop; we do not have enough foodgrains like rice and wheat. It is not available in the country. Rice shops are being looted.

In Orissa the farmers have lost everything; their agriculture and everything. Though they took to raising rice crop of high yielding variety, the crop was lost as water was not made available in the right time and in adequate qualities. In Jaipur area,—I am glad my friend Mr. Anandi Charan Das is here—he has written

letters to the higher authorities. Orissa is now under President's rule, and therefore the Centre is ruling us today. The farmers have lost their very good crop in 15,000 acres in that area. The whole country needs rice but best crops are being lost due to lack of irrigation water.

Electricity is one of the new powers that we have got, with which we can remove poverty. Out of 46,000 villages in Orissa, only 4,995 villages have been electrified and only 1399 pumps have been energised in the last 25 years. In Assam 677 villages have been electrified while only 105 pumps have been energised. In Bihar the corresponding figures are 8,177 and 82,844. In West Bengal 4,656 villages have been electrified and the number of pumpsets and tubewells energised comes to 1,656. In your State, Mr. Chairman, Tamil Nadu, more than 13,000 villages have been electrified and 636,134 pumpsets have been energised. It is a good thing that they have achieved there. In Maharashtra 14,397 villages have been electrified and more than 271,000 pumpsets have been energised. You can see the difference with facts and figures and you can yourselves conclude, what is the difference that exists between the eastern region and the other regions in the country.

Unemployment is becoming acute and it is the most serious problem in the eastern region today. In Orissa 300,000 of young and educated men are on the live registers of the employment Exchanges. Many persons have not even registered and so the number is actually much more. In West Bengal nearly 14 lakhs of young men are on the live register and in Assam the figure is 80,000 and in Bihar the number is more than 700,000. Due to lack of development, due to lack of industry, the problem of unemployment has become acute. We are fighting the biggest battle to remove poverty from the country.

We have massive programmes. We have defined poverty line. Any person earning less than 50 paise per day in the rural area and less than one rupee in the urban area is said to be below the poverty line. In the entire country 41.9 per cent of the total people live below the poverty line. When Gandhiji visited Orissa and saw the poverty of the people there, he said "I find Orissa is epitome of Indian poverty." You will be surprised to know that 65 per cent people in Orissa live below the poverty line and this is the highest figure for the country.

Take the case of communications. They always say that industries cannot go to Orissa, Assam, West Bengal or Meghalaya, because there is no rail communications and there is no road communications or water transport. If there is no road communications or if there is no infra-structure, industries cannot be started in these areas. That is what they have been telling us.

And that is the picture as it stands to-day. Look at the route length of the railway track. In Orissa, to-day it is about 1,686.78 k.m.; in Bihar it is 5,201 k.m.; in Assam it is 2,193.80 km. in Gujarat it is 5,431.42 k.m. in Maharashtra, it is 5,192.97 k.m. and the position is same so far as road and water communications are concerned. Orissa lags behind the other States in our country.

What do we find to-day? We find a picture of utter backwardness in all the fields of economic development in this region and particularly in Orissa. Prosperity can come to the State of Orissa and we can build a new and prosperous Orissa and we can feed the millions of our people who are below poverty line. This is one of the richest areas of our country where the sun spreads its golden

rays first in the horizon. This region produces 75 per cent of the country's mineral output in value. It is endowed with 90 per cent of the coal reserves and 80 per cent of ironore of the whole country. Oil and natural gas is in plenty. It has 89 per cent of the nation's manganese deposits—60 per cent of the atomic elements and finest deposits of nickel. This is a rare metal in this country which we are importing. We will be importing 25 crores of rupees worth of it annually after five years or so. We have tremendous forest wealth. Its hydro power potential is estimated to yield 4,217 m.w. of power which can feed the whole country for years together. But that is not utilised. It has unlimited scope for development of thermal power. There is so much of coal deposit available in Orissa and Bengal as also in Bihar which we have not been able to utilise. There is a tremendous possibility for the production of thermal power. In Orissa there is abundance of water resources which can provide irrigation for all the lands for raising crops year-round so that we can feed the entire country.

It is a strange paradox that this region which has rich mineral resources has got people who are poor and who are below poverty-line. One question may be asked by us from the Government. They may say that they know the problem of this State. It is a backward State which we want to develop. We are thankful to Government that they are really sincere to develop this region. But this requires a coordinated planning by the different ministries concerned. The question may arise as to the availability of resources. How can we develop the eastern region which has got so much of mineral wealth? To-day the Government commands control over the credit finance of nearly Rs. 12,000 crores besides the private white and black money not

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only that. There are government lending agencies like the nationalised banks, L.I.C. and other lending institutions. So they have a control over at least Rs. 12,000 crores and it goes on increasing and what is the position today? Shri T. A. Pai, at present a Minister when he was the Chairman of L.I.C. he had done some good work. He had said that the L.I.C. will give preferential treatment to the comparatively backward States like Orissa, Assam, Bihar and West Bengal on development works. He had also said that 'in the eastern Region, we might invest more than we collect'. But, what has happened to this declaration? If you look at the funds of the L.I.C. you will find the following. Let me first refer to the year 1971-72. In Orissa, the L.I.C. invested or financed credit to the extent of Rs. 6.81 crores; in Maharashtra it is Rs. 28 crores, 25 lakhs; in Tamilnadu, it is Rs. 23 crores, 59 lakhs; in West Bengal, it is Rs. 13 crores, 80 lakhs; in Gujarat, it is Rs. 22 crores and 45 lakhs; in Assam it is Rs. 5 crores, 81 lakhs and in Bihar, it is Rs. 7 crores; 81 lakhs. You can say that the intention is good. But, when we come to the implementation of the programmes, you will find that we are miserably failing.

Let us look to the advances made by the Industrial Finance Corporation as on 31st June, 1973.

Name of State	Amount in crores of Rs.
Orissa	5.23
Tamilnadu	12.13
West Bengal	18.88
Assam	3.41
Bihar	6.21

Let us see the loans advanced by the I.D.B. from July, 1964 to June, 1972 to the various States;

Name of the State	Rs. crores
Maharashtra	167.76
Tamilnadu	80.08
Gujarat	70.47
West Bengal	66.44
Mysore	37.14
Assam	14.24
Orissa	12.72
U.P.	21.85

You can yourself see the difference. The Government of India and the Planning Commission have been telling us repeatedly that it is the duty of the Government to see that the regional imbalances are removed. Why is there so much turmoil in Andhra and Telengana? It is only because of backwardness. So, unless we pump in more wealth into the backward regions, the regional imbalances will not be removed.

Even if you take the fourth plan outlay on Central Industrial Projects, Orissa has been given only Rs. 15 crores, Bihar Rs. 797 crores—this is because of the steel plants there—and West Bengal Rs. 112 crores. If you take the annual plan for 1973-74, the allocation under the three heads are as follows:—

Name of the State	Large and medium industries (Rs. in lakhs)	Mineral development (Rs. in lakhs)	Village and small industries (Rs. in lakhs)
Orissa	86	94	63
West Bengal	327	12	190
Tamilnadu	400	15	375
Maharashtra	684	70	290
Gujarat	340	65	120

The most discouraging part of the story is so far as the nationalised banks are concerned. It is our responsibility to see that the nationalised banks do some good work as a catalyst to remove backwardness. Let me give the State-wise deposits and advances of Public Sector Banks as at the end of June, 1972.

	Deposit (Rs. in crores)	Credit (Rs. in crores)
Assam	54 42	27 06
Meghalaya . . .	15 03	4 17
Bihar	317 83	95 79
Orissa	53 10	22 09
West Bengal . .	756 76	599 52
Maharashtra . .	1532 94	1274 05

From this you find that the banks did not work as a catalyst for the development of backward regions. I have not mentioned Tamil Nadu, Sir, because you may think otherwise—the deposits are less and the advances are too much. They are mobilising deposits from backward regions and they are diverting them to the developed States.

I will now make five or six categorical suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Minister. The Paradip port in Orissa was intended to export iron ore and assist in attracting industry to the backward hinterland. It would have succeeded in that aim if the Centre had not rejected the attractive Japanese offer for a line from Paradip to Sukinda. That error of judgment has now been compounded by the obstinacy of the South Eastern Railway is not having a line connecting Talcher-Bimalgarh upto Banspani on the ground that it would be unremunerative. I want that the construction of this line should be expedited.

493 LS—12.

Though the construction of a nickel plant in Orissa was inaugurated in 1972, you will be surprised to know that its head office has been situated in Delhi. Even though this new nickel plant would be working in Orissa, its head office is in Delhi. Why? Because they do not want to recruit local people. The bureaucracy wants to see that people are recruited from Delhi and not from Orissa. I say that the people of Orissa will not tolerate it. The construction of the nickel plant should be expedited and its head office situated in Orissa. So also the case of expediting the lead plant at sargipalli and location of the Navy Training School at Chilka Lake site.

The Malantoli iron ore project has been inaugurated. Its work should be expedited.

We have asked for a ship-yard at Paradip. The Ministry of Transport and Shipping have told us that they shall consider it. How long will they consider it? Every time we put a question they say that they are considering it. When you sent a team to enquire into the Haldia ship-yard, why could you not ask them to go to Paradip port also and see both of them. We want both ship-yards to come. We are not saying that Paradip shipyard should come at the expense of Haldia. We want both Paradip and Haldia to come.

Coming to steel projects, whenever my proposal comes you are saying that it would be costly or prohibitive because you are carrying coal to New Castle. Why do you not have a steel plant at Nayagarh in Orissa. Messrs. Dastur & Company, Government Consultants, have stated that it is the most economical area for setting up a suitable steel plant in Keonjhar district. If you want to have an integrated steel plant, it will have ten years for the plant to come up. When you are short of steel, why

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why do you not start work on locational survey and other things right now so that at least by 1980 these plants can come up?

The Planning Commission has gone into the details of the resources of the South Eastern region and it has said that an investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crores to 7,000 crores are needed to see that the backward eastern region of Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Meghalaya are developed within a period of five to six years. So, there should be a phased programme for seven years. In that process I would suggest that you should provide for agriculture and irrigation Rs 3,000 crores, for mining Rs 600 crores, for small-scale and household industries Rs 2,180 crores and for public health, education, housing and transport which will give employment to many you should provide Rs 2,984 crores. In the Fifth Plan the Planning Commission should make a provision of Rs 8,764 crores for the States in the eastern region like Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Meghalaya, Arunachal and Mizoram so that in the coming five to seven years the people of that region could feel that the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and the other Ministries of the Government of India are doing their best to see that this region comes on par with the rest of India.

MR CHAIRMAN Resolution moved.

"This House urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for industrial development of the eastern region of the country, particularly Orissa, in view of the utter economic backwardness of that part of the country"

There is an amendment given notice of by Shri Ram Avtar Shastri. He is absent. That is not moved.

श्री भारत सिंह बघेल (घार)

सभापति महोदय, जहाँ तक इस सकल्प का सम्बन्ध है, यद्यपि इसमें पूर्वी प्रदेश के बारे में कहा गया है, परन्तु इसमें पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के बारे में भी उल्लेख किया गया है, इसलिये मैं इस सकल्प का समर्थन करता हूँ।

जहाँ तक पिछड़े क्षेत्रों की बात है—पिछड़े 25 सालों की एक बहुत दुखभरी कहानी है। आज भारत का सबसे ज्यादा पिछड़ापन आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में है और उनमें सबसे पहला नम्बर मध्य प्रदेश का है। दूसरे नम्बर पर बिहार आता है और तीसरे पर उड़ीसा आता है। आज 80-90 लाख आदिवासी केवल एक ही प्रान्त मध्य प्रदेश में रहते हैं। मैं इन की दुर्दशा का क्या वर्णन करूँ—कितना पिछड़ापन है। वहाँ पर सब तरह का अभाव है, लेकिन कुदरत ने उस क्षेत्र को वन-सम्पदा दी है, खनिज पदार्थ दिये हैं उनका आज तक ठीक तरह से इस्तेमाल नहीं हुआ और उन खनिज पदार्थों से राष्ट्र को जो लाभ होना चाहिए था, वह नहीं हुआ। इसके कई कारण हैं—मैं कुछ आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ।

अभी हान में वहाँ की एक सर्वे रिपोर्ट आई है जो बिलासपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट, सरगुजा और बस्तर के बारे में है, जो गरीब आदिवासी क्षेत्र है। शायद भारत के किसी भी हिस्से में इतना पिछड़ापन या गरीबी दिखाई नहीं देती जितनी इन क्षेत्रों में है। वहाँ लोहे की खानें हैं, ताम्बा है, अवग्रह है, एल्यूमिनियम है सब तरह की खानें हैं। इसी सर्वे रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि वहाँ पर अवग्रह का 22 लाख टन का डिपॉजिट है। अभी सर्वे वहाँ

पर चालू हैं और आगे जो रिपोर्ट आयेगी उसमें और भी मालूम होगा। शासन इस भण्डार का उपयोग नहीं कर रहा है।

पहले वहां निजी क्षेत्र में कुछ कारखाने थे लेकिन अब उनकी इजाजत बन्द कर दी गई है और शासन भी उन खनिज पदार्थों का उपयोग करने की कोशिश नहीं कर रहा है—इसलिये प्रश्न यह है कि इसका तालमेल कैसे होगा। एक तरफ निजी लोगों को आपने परमिट देना बन्द कर दिया है, जिससे वे उद्योग धन्धे बन्द हो गये हैं बैकारी फैल गई है और दूसरी तरफ शासन यह कहता है कि इन खनिज चीजों का नैशनलाइजेशन किया जायेगा—लेकिन प्रत्यक्ष में कुछ नहीं हो रहा है, जिसके कारण वे आदिवासी लोग मफर कर रहे हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस तरफ पूरा ध्यान दे और कुछ इस तरह से तालमेल बैठाये जिससे वहां का विकास ठीक ढंग में हो। वहां पर रेलों का अभाव है, मड़कों का प्रभाव है। मध्य प्रदेश में पानी की कमी नहीं है, अनेकों नदियां हैं, नर्मदा नदी है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने 225 बाघ की योजनाएं केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजी थीं।

MR CHAIRMAN: This resolution deals with the development of Eastern region of the country and particularly Orissa. Please confine yourself only to that.

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान इसमें पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के लिये रेफर किया गया है, इसलिये मैं उनका उल्लेख कर रहा हूँ।

अभी पिछले दिनों हमारे इण्डस्ट्री मिनिस्टर ने केन्द्र सरकार को लिखा था कि

बालाडिला में जहां लोहे का बहुत बड़ा भण्डार है, उसका उपयोग बड़े पैमाने पर हो सकता है, लेकिन वहां पर अभी तक कोई बड़ा कारखाना नहीं डाला गया है। वहां पर काफी बड़ी तादाद में कच्चा माल भरा पड़ा है, सर्वे रिपोर्ट की तरफ भी सरकार का ध्यान नहीं गया है। मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि बालाडिला का जो मुझसे मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने भेजा है उसको तुरन्त हाथ में ले और वहां इस्पात का कारखाना कायम करे ताकि उस पिछड़े क्षेत्र का विकास हो सके और पिछड़े लोग उसमें लाभ उठा सकें।

SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK (Puri): I support the Resolution moved by my hon friend, Shri Chintamani Panigrahi. He has, with all facts and figures, elaborated the difficulties in the growth of the eastern region and the backwardness particularly of Orissa. It is a historical fact that Orissa could not develop quickly along with the other States. It was a part of Bengal Presidency when some other portions were attached to Madras Presidency and some districts were attached to old Central Provinces and Berar. Then, the province was created in the year 1936. Again 26 princely States integrated in 1948, and really the State came into being with its present stature in 1948. The development could not take place because the States could not integrate, and the rulers objected saying that they had the riparian rights and did not allow the construction of Hirakud project. Thus, the much-needed power and irrigation project was delayed. I am not going to accuse anybody. As a matter of fact, the whole country is backward. But, within India, we have to look to the regions where development is lacking. Because of its feudal character, the eastern region and particularly Orissa, could not compete with the other regions and, therefore,

[Shri Banamali Patnaik]

could not have the same developmental capacity. We know that this region has the richest deposits of iron ore, manganese, chromium, bauxite, nickel, and lead, and gold mines also have been discovered recently. The coal deposits of Rani Ganj, Asansol and Talchair are well known. But what is happening in that area? Why is it not developing? We produce electricity from Hirakud, Duduma and Talchair, and very recently, also from Balimela. We have the biggest thermal power plant at Talchair. There are several industries that have been established after independence—the Rourkela steel plant, the ferro-manganese plants at Joda and Rayagada, the ferro-chrome plant set up by the Industrial Development Corporation. But they have not solved the problem. There are potentialities for small scale industries, the irrigation potential is there. The other day when I was speaking on Defence budget I said that the development of Haryana and Punjab was not because of agriculture and small scale industries but because a large number of army personnel are settled there. These two States get Rs 250 crores annually as pension. A lot of these are the demobilised army personnel and when they settle there they get also a further amount for their resettlement. It results in a heavy investment of Rs 300 crores or something like that which neither the LIC nor the commercial banks can do. All this helps in the development of the area and a large number of employment opportunities created and a large number of people recruited. The salary and the pension they get also goes into the development of that area. So if there is recruitment from all the regions I think it will help in solving the problems to some extent and these people can go and develop small scale industries.

We raised the question why the entrepreneurs do not come forward for establishing industries in the backward areas. Recently the question was asked: About 86 licences have been issued to small scale units but they do not

come. There is a bottle-neck. The Ministry of Industrial Development recommends the quota and for the last two years, they have deposited the money. The Industrial Adviser in the Ministry of Industrial Development goes and knocks at the door of Steel & Mines Ministry but they do not get the quota and the quota is sold somewhere else. It is sold in Calcutta or Karpur where there is more demand. Or to some other place it goes away or some unidentified industry gets it. For that reason they do not get the raw materials. If this is the case how can the industries develop? Recently at party came from Kalahandi district. They have deposited with the Iron & Steel Controller Rs 20,000 but they do not get even one third of their quota. They have been going from place to place but they do not get. How can you expect the industry to develop?

There is something wrong in our approach. There is no co-ordination. You issue the licence but they do not get the raw material. It is not the question of a big industry. All small industries with a capital of Rs 5 or 6 lakhs. If a large number of small units come up, some employment will be generated. It is the duty of the Ministry of Planning to find out and tell us why that region is not developing. There is something backwardness in that area though it is rich in mineral wealth and all other potentialities. Then why is it not developing?

First thing my friend has suggested that 40 per cent of the population are tribals. They do not have the purchasing power. Then how can they invest money? They are just below the poverty line. Sometime ago the Orissa Government appointed a techno-economic survey committee under the chairmanship of the late Dr P. S. Lokanathan which submitted its report in 1962. In that report they have suggested that heavy investment is necessary for the development of Orissa not only for development but to bring it to the level of other States. They suggested an invest-

ment of Rs. 1200 crores. Now, in 1973, it should be much more than that. Out of this Rs. 1200 crores, they recommended Rs. 520 crores for irrigation and they said it may be done in a phased manner, to be done in 15 years. If there is a long-term planning, it can be done. Just I give one example here. The Delta Irrigation Project which was much advertised and which was expected to irrigate about 2 million acres of land—its original estimate was Rs. 14 crores. Now it has run to Rs. 68 crores. We have already invested Rs. 34 crores but it yet to be completed. By the time, it is completed, the cost of cement goes up, the cost of labour goes up and when it is completed, it may be costing us anything between Rs. 90 to 100 crores. What happened? Not a single branch of the canal is complete though some of the main canals are completed. It is not able to irrigate even one-fourth of the area though half the amount has been invested.

So, there is something wrong in our planning attitude itself. They do not see the performance. If you do not have the proper investment and the proper execution, then in spite of heavy investment, the results achieved are nil. We pay interest on Rs. 34 crores and we realise hardly Rs. 50 lakhs.

The capital cost is increasing. We cannot pay it back. The same thing is the case with regard to the Hirakud project also. It was a multi-purpose dam. It was expected that a portion of the expenditure will be debited for the control of the flood. But this question has yet been settled. We are still paying interest for the entire amount of Rs. 96 crores invested in the Hirakud project. What portion is to be debited for the control of the flood? This is still not being decided in spite of various Finance Commissions. in spite of the Government of India saying that they will look into the matter. The same thing goes on and capital cost is increasing. We do not know what is going to happen.

Then, regarding the transport system, there could not be any proper development of the transport system in this region because of the large number of princely States there. Therefore, communications could not be developed in these parts. The Maharajas did not allow railway lines to be constructed in these parts. One Raja only, namely, the Raja of Mayurbhanj wanted a small narrow gauge line and it was constructed. That State has iron, vanadium, kainite and asbestos but without proper system of transport these industries cannot be developed in that area. There can not be industry without transport and there cannot be transport without industry. This is a vicious circle. This should be looked into.

The western part of Orissa, namely, Sambalpur is not connected with the eastern part of Orissa, namely, Paradeep port with any railway line.

Sir, long before the war, that is, the Second World War, the Britishers conducted a survey. That survey was to connect Sambalpur with Khurda road. It would have cost at that time only Rs. 4 crores. Now it would cost Rs. 34 crores. But now they say it is not economical; they say, it is not feasible. What would be a feasible proposition in 1939 or 1940 is not feasible now in the year 1973. This is the position.

There are two railway lines because Calcutta had to be connected with Madras and also with Bombay. As the Railways wanted coal, therefore, a branch line to Talcher was constructed. Because there is a temple of Puri Jagannath, therefore a small branch line to Puri was constructed. Otherwise for the development of Orissa, no railway line was constructed. This is my point. The proper development of industries could not take place only because of this reason. The Railway Minister has to see that industrial development is not

[Shri Banamali Pattnaik]

hampered because there is no railway line. These things have to be decided at the political level whether we want to develop this area or not.

There is the headquarters of the Sukhinda Nickel Plant at Delhi. This is 700 miles away from the headquarters of the industry there. It is something fantastic. There are very rich potentialities in those areas. But they are not developed. The same thing applies to Bihar. The same thing applies to Chota Nagpur plateau. They are all full of mineral resources. Calcutta developed because of historical reasons. Beyond Calcutta there is absolutely no industry there. We used to say 'Sonar Bangla'—now it is neither 'Sonar' nor 'Bangla'. The fertile lands of Bengal cannot be irrigated and therefore they cannot supply food. If only there is irrigation there, it will feed, I am sure, nearly half of India. But there is neither irrigation nor industry. Now, it is a question of heavy investment, coordination of different Ministries as to how to improve that region. That is the region which brings more foreign exchange by selling iron ore. How long we will continue to sell mineral wealth and not have a steel plant. We have the lowest per capita consumption of steel in the world. Hence a Steel plant is a must for Orissa. This will help in the growth of other ancillary industries.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, that in any country there should be no backward people and no backward areas should be the aim of any government or any country. But, unfortunately, we have inherited this backwardness from the colonial rule of the Britishers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will take the sense of the House. There is a Half-an-Hour discussion posted for today. In the normal course it should have been taken up at 6.00 P.M. Mr. Panigrahi's Resolution started at 5.10 P.M.

and if allowed two hours it cannot be finished today. As many as 12 Members have to speak and so far only two Members have spoken. I want to take the sense of the House whether we may postpone discussion on Shri Panigrahi's Resolution and take up Half-an-Hour discussion so that the discussion on Shri Panigrahi's Resolution will be taken up next time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Half-an-Hour discussion may be taken up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we are taking up Half-an-Hour discussion and Mr. Reddy will continue his speech on the next day.

18.03 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

EXPENDITURE ON REPAIRS OF NEWLY PURCHASED SHIPS BY SHIPPING CORPORATION.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister in his reply on 26th February, 1973 to Starred Question No. 90 was not only not clear but was evasive also. So, I want to raise this discussion.

The Shipping Corporation of India, which has been building up its mercantile fleet into a gigantic monolith is practically sinking under the crores of rupees that have been wasted on repairing new ships which could be termed "floating junks". One of the top profit-spinners in the Public Sector, the Corporation has grown in magnitude but Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. C. P. Srivastava, as head of Shipping Corporation of India has further imposed too many additional duties on him like frequent trips abroad to attend international conferences on shipping matters. Srivastava's administrative ability and experience have made him a Member of the newly constituted committee of the Government which