

headquarters of Bhojpur district. It is a major business and industrial city. Not only this, it is the birth place of the great freedom fighter and brave fighter Babu Kunwar Singh as well as the centre of his activities. On the other hand, Sasaram is the birth place of the historical figure Shershah Suri and the centre of his activities. It is the district headquarters of Rohtas district and also a major business and industrial centre. The grave of world famous Sher Shah Suri is also there in Sasaram. It is a tourist place also. During the pre-independence days Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway used to serve as a link between these two cities. After Independence the railway line was dismantled on the pretext of converting it into broad gauge line. But unfortunately it has not been done so far. Consequently, lakhs of passengers who commute between Arrah and Sasaram have to face lot of hardships. The bus owners fleece the passengers and the people have to face lot of inconvenience. I, therefore, demand through you, that construction of a broad gauge line from Arrah-Sasaram to Bhavnathpur in Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh via Dihri and Rohtaspur be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

- (iv) **Need to set up cold storage and air conditioning rooms at important market places and also to establish Food Processing unit in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, in my Constituency, that is, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, many varieties of grapes and bananas are produced in abundance. Unlike other fruits like oranges, mangoes etc. Grapes and bananas are produced in Dindigul throughout the year in all seasons. The farmers engaged in the production of these fruits do not get proper

price for their products because those fruits cannot be preserved and kept for more than three days without providing proper facilities like Cold-Storage and Air-Conditioned rooms at important market places in the area. The Cold-Storage facilities and Air-Conditioned rooms will also be quite useful for preserving the betel leaves which are grown in large quantities in Dindigul.

Since grapes and Banana fruits are available in surplus quantity, these fruits can be processed, tinned and exported to foreign countries to earn foreign exchange.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Food Processing Industries kindly to arrange for provision of Cold-Storage facilities and Air-Conditioned rooms in important market places in Dindigul as also establish a Food Processing Unit in Dindigul so that the surplus fruits can be processed and exported for earning foreign exchange.

- (v) **Need to provide remote area allowance to the employees of Central Government posted in Himachal Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): The Central Government employees posted in remote areas of Himachal Pradesh do not either get Remote Area Allowance or accommodation at these places. As they are not able to keep their families with them and they have to hire accommodation and have to pay exorbitant rent. I would like to submit here that Central Government employees working in Himachal Pradesh have to work very hard. The employees of Telegraph and Telephone departments do not even get good quality uniform. The Railway employees posted at the Railway Stations between Kalka and Shimla do not get the Remote Area Allowance which is admissible to be employees of

[Sh. Krishan Dutt Sultanpuri]

those areas which have been declared remote area.

I demand that every employee in Himachal Pradesh, whether is a Central Government employee, be given Remote Area Allowance and accommodation facility at the place of posting.

- (vi) **Need to construct a railway over-bridge at railway crossing in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): The railway crossing in Pilibhit is surrounded by four sugar mills, rice mill, oil mill and the Mandi Samiti. There is 24 hour traffic on this railway crossing and all modes of transport like bus, truck, tractor, cycle or rickshaw use it. When the trains come, the crossing is closed for a long time and as a result there is heavy traffic jam. There is every possibility of an accident there. Keeping in view the traffic congestion on this crossing, there is need for constructing an over-bridge here.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to immediately construct an over-bridge on this railway crossing keeping in view the hardships being faced by people of the area.

12.58 hrs.

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Ministry of Agriculture,
Ministry of Food
and
Ministry of Rural Development -
CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Item Nos. 11 to 13 together. Shri Sobha-

nadreeswara Rao Vadde to continue his speech.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, because of the inadequate funding made for the development of rural areas and the gross negligence on the part of the successive Governments, today, it is very pathetic to find that nearly one lakh villages are yet to be electrified; more than a quarter of the villages are yet to be provided with road facilities; nearly 75,000 villages do not have an elementary school to cater to the educational needs of the children of such villages. More than 65 per cent of the villages are not yet covered under the veterinary care. Even after a decade of giving such priority to provide drinking water to the rural people, still there are several thousands of villages which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water. The other day, this Government has named the scheme of providing drinking water to the villages after our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. His name was associated with that.

13.00 hrs

This shows to what extent the successive Governments have neglected the villages and the rural people. Unfortunately, from the Second Five Year Plan the Government was giving much importance to industries. They thought even without the agricultural development, the country can go ahead in the industrial sphere to provide employment to millions of people and improve the standard of living of this vast millions of our people in this country. But it proved wrong. While in the First Five Year Plan, allocation for agriculture was nearly 15 per cent, it came down to mere six per cent in the Seventh Plan. Similarly, for irrigation, which is a must for the agricultural development, in the First Five Year Plan, 22 per cent of the outlays were allocated for irrigation development. But it came down to 9.4 per cent in the