

disease is prevented in the area. Thank You.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikramganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some canal irrigation project which was launched in Rohtas district of Bihar is quite an old project. It is one of the major projects of the country. It irrigates about 25 lakh acres of land in Rohtas, Bhabua, Buxar, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada and Patna districts. About 75 lakh tonnes of foodgrains grow in the area irrigated by Sone Canal Irrigation Project. It benefits about 15 lakh agricultural labourers. This project was executed in 1875 and its life span was assessed to be 50 years. Now it is already 115 years old. All the distributor canals have become useless either due to the silt deposited in them or due to the damaged embankments with the result that its capacity to carry water has almost finished. It is proving to be harmful both during drought as well as floods. Deficient rains cause drought. Floods occur due to excessive rain. The modernisation schemes sent by the Government of Bihar are lying pending with Central Government for years. Sir, through you. I would like to demand that the Government should clear these modernisation schemes and they should be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Work on Baan Sagar Project should be undertaken immediately.

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman & Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu. I belong to a family of fisherman. The fishermen are a poor lot. In Gujarat, the fishing business is carried out on a large scale. The fishermen of Aurwad, Porbandar, Veraval, Jamnagar, Dwarka, Diu, Daman, Mangarol, Jaffrabad, Umargaon, Surat, and Bulsar districts enter into deep sea near Jakho for fishing. Jakho is situated on Indo-Pak border. But as there is no demarcation sign on the border, Navy personnel of Pakistan arrest these fishermen and put them in their jails. As a result, their fishing boats, which are very expensive, get

spoiled by lying on the coast and the fishermen have to incur a heavy loss. I had raised this question during the Ninth Lok Sabha also. At that time, the V.P. Singh Government had made an agreement with Pakistan in this regard and had got the fishermen released from jail. Now again, they being put in jails. You are aware that our country exports fish in large quantities but now it cannot be exported. Due to that the country is suffering heavy loss. The concerned industries have become sick and are lying closed. The cold strangs are lying empty. Due to fear, the fishermen do not go for fishing. This has worsened the conditions of our fishermen. They are unable to pay back the loans taken from the banks for building fishing boats. The banks have also stopped to give them further loans. They are becoming poorer. I would request the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs that arrangements should be made at the border which will warn the fishermen not to advance after a certain point.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given several notices to speak on this subject. You provided me an opportunity this time, for which I am very thankful to you.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN (Vishnupur): Sir, I rise to make a statement on a very urgent matter.

The metre gauge Bankura Damodar River Railway in West Bengal between Bankura Rai Nagar - the only way of important and powerful transport is being neglected since the charge taken by the South Eastern Railway in 1967 for the reason best known to the authorities. Its service is being deteriorated day by day. A large number of passengers deprived of their main transport. The inconvenience and difficulties of the daily passengers and goods of the vast area of Burdwan and Bankura are being of Bankura, Burdwan and Calcutta in respect of carrying of heavy goods and commodities have reached the summit. The people of the