

import of pig iron at the concessional rate.

- (v) **Need for early conversion of Dharaunda-Maharajganj rail section into broad gauge**

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under ruler 377:-

Right from the British period, Dharaunda station of Barouni-Gorakhpur main line in the North-Eastern railway had been a link between an important trade centre Maharajganj and three districts of Bihar State. Keeping in view the importance of that town, a survey under the scheme of connecting it with Sidhwalia Station of Chhapra-Thave rail section was also conducted. At the time of conversion of Barauni Gorakhpur meter gauge main line into broad gauge line in spite of making available all the equipments and funds required for converting Daraunda-Maharajganj rail section into broad gauge line suddenly a decision was taken to stop the work sometime in March, 1981. Despite the fact that it is very much in the public interest. Indian Railway is still rendering its service uninterruptedly on several rail sections of North Eastern railway like Mankapur-Ayodhya, Katihar-Barari Ghat, Bagaha-Chhitouni etc. Therefore, I request you to re-start the work of rail-section considering the feelings of the agitating people of that area.

- (vi) **Need to form a new company by taking over coal fields left out by the Eastern Coal fields and Central Coal Fields in Bihar and West Bengal**

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Eastern Coal Fields of Coal India and Raj Mahal Project of Central Coal Fields, S.P. Mines Palsyal area, Kapasara, Nirsa, Jain, Jayantil, Vaskupi, Khamarbad, Giridih. Baniyadih area and Jodkudi, Armo, Chilgon, Vargo, Chudi Zivari Durgapur, in Eastern Coal Fields along with

20 other coal mines have been closed down just after their nationalisation. It is mainly because of the large area of the E.C.L. company and C.C.L. and their location at Bengal Bihar areas. Due to that there is no development of these closed coal mines and the local people could not get employment there.

Therefore, a new company by taking over the said area may be formed, so that development could take place in that tribal area.

13.00 hrs.

- (vii) **Need to create a Maritime Border Protection Force**

[*English*]

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Sir, Today, Indian maritime coastlines are becoming as important and crucial as its land border. We have no force like B.S.F, I.T.B.P. or Assam Rifles for the management of maritime coastlines. No doubt, we have a powerful Navy and a growing coast guard. However, the Navy's primary role is the defence of national sovereignty against all external threats. The coast guard is entrusted with the task of safeguarding the resources of the exclusive economic zone. It also helps the Customs and Immigration besides assisting in pollution control and scientific research. Hence, it will be counter-productive, if any one of them is entrusted additional responsibility of maritime coastline management.

We can identify three maritime sensitive borders. The riverine border between India and Bangladesh including Sunderbans area, the marshy and shallow areas of the Rann of Kutch and lastly, the sensitive maritime border of Tamil Nadu coast along the Pakk Strait. If the Maritime Border Protection Force is created, it can be put in charge of the management of maritime coastlines exclusively.

As patrolling and protection of maritime coastlines warrant urgent attention of the

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

Government of India, I urge the Government to create a Maritime Border Protection Force expeditiously, preferably under the control of the Central Government.

(viii) Need to declare Rabindranath Tagore as National Poet and preserve his literary and artistic works

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, Article 49 of our Constitution enjoins on the State to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest (declared by or under law made by Parliament) to be of national importance, from spoliation, disfigurement, destruction etc.

But in spite of this, the literary and artistic works of Rabindranath Tagore are facing the risk of suffering distortion at the hands of unscrupulous commercial interests, after the expiry of 50 years from the demise of the world-poet when the copy right provisions cease to be applicable in this particular case w.e.f. 31st December, 1991.

In the House of Parliament on May 9, 1961 while paying homage and tribute to the memory of Rabindra Nath Tagore on the occasion of his birth centenary, he had been described as "a great personality who put India on the cultural map of the world."

Serious concern has already been expressed from several quarters regarding the possibility of commercial abuse and resultant distortion of the literary and artistic works of the versatile genius after the expiry of 50 years from his death. Some well-known organisations of writers and artists as also some eminent Tagore-lovers have demanded that Rabindra Nath Tagore be declared as National Poet by an Act of Parliament and urgent steps be taken accordingly to protect the invaluable artistic and literary creations before the expiry of 50 years from his death.

I urge upon the Government to respond

to the very justified demand for declaration of Rabindra National Poet.

13.04 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1991-92**

**Ministries of Agriculture, Food and
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.

I now call Shri E. Ahamed to continue his talk on Agriculture.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday I was dealing with the possibilities of developing the fisheries industry in the country for which the Ministry of Agriculture has to take some immediate steps to activate the process of the industry. What I said yesterday was that India has got 29,000 Kms. of river system and 7.53 lakh hectares of potential fresh water ponds and tanks to produce fish. India has also got the potential to produce 4.5 million tonnes of fish every year. But in spite of all these facilities, the encouragement or incentives provided by the Government of India is very much inadequate. The State-wise analysis of the fish production during 1988-89 shows that West Bengal produces 5.14 lakh tonnes of fish followed by Maharashtra 3.84 lakh tonnes, Gujarat-3.81 lakh tonnes, Tamil Nadu 3.68 lakh tonnes and Kerala 3.65 lakh tonnes. These five States have been earning a very large portion of foreign exchange to this country through the promotion of marine products by exports. India has become the Seventh in the world whereas Japan comes at the top as the country producing the maximum quantity of fish. But Japan is utilising the modern techniques in fishing which India has not ac-