

the Government and on the other hand will give mental reprieve to the flat/plot owners from the payment of annual land rent (ground rent), in addition to reducing pressure on administration to a large extent. Though this decision will be equally extended to flat/plot owners, but it has not been made clear whether the decision will be applicable to those flats/plots owners also who have been given flats/plots by the Cooperative Housing Societies. If it is not so, it is essential that the new land system should be extended to properties allotted by Cooperative Housing Societies, so that maximum number of persons can be allowed to avail of the benefits of 'free-hold' system.

Therefore, I urge the Government to allay all the apprehensions before implementing the new land system, in the larger interest of people. In whole of India, the 'lease system' should be replaced by 'free-hold' system.

- (iv) **Need to provide due share of natural gas to Ahmedabad city**

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, the pollution level in Ahmedabad city is one of the highest in the country. Replacement of kerosene, wood coal etc. used for domestic and industrial purposes would bring down the level of pollution and also improve the health and hygiene of the people, particularly the women in the middle and lower sections of the society. Saving of the kerosene would reduce the foreign exchange outflow. Replacement of wood would help in conservation of forest wealth which is so scanty. Piped gas supply would contribute effectively in giving much needed boost to the economy of Ahmedabad city.

Gas reserves have been found at many places in Gujarat. A detailed feasibility project report has also been prepared and the same was submitted to Government of India. In this connection, the State Government has requested to allocate at least 1

MC-MD Gas for immediate requirement. The State Government have been informed by the Central Government that after finalisation of gas use policy, necessary allocation to Ahmedabad city will be considered.

I request the Central Government that the Gas use policy should be decided immediately and the due share of the Gas should be allocated to Ahmedabad city.

- (v) **Need to supply thread to weavers are powerloom and handloom workers at subsidised rates particularly those in West Bengal**

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Sir, lakhs and lakhs of weavers, especially handloom and powerloom workers are suffering in West Bengal due to recent price hike of cotton. It has increased at the rate of Rs. 10/- per kg. and weavers and workers have been rendered jobless. The small and marginal weavers have no capacity to buy this cotton thread which is very much used by the poor weavers and the cloth produced is mostly worn by the poor people in our country. Under these circumstances, if the Government does not take necessary steps, the weavers are bound to leave their profession. It is my earnest demand to the Central Government to make necessary arrangements to supply threads at a subsidised rate to the weavers at the earliest.

- (vi) **Need for comprehensive review of copyright Act, 1957 to extend copyright to Rabindra Nath Tagore's work**

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, on the completion of 50 years of his death anniversary, the copyrights of the works of Tagore shall expire on December 31, 1991.

A delegation from the Viswa Bharati University led by the Vice-Chancellor met the Minister of Human Resources and also the Prime Minister, requesting for the extension of Rabindra Nath Tagore's works' copy-

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

right, now resting with the Viswa Bharati University by a Trust deed executed by the poet himself. They also submitted relevant papers in justification of their request, including legal opinion obtained from a retired Judge of Calcutta High Court.

Tagore, the Philosopher, Writer, Composer, Educationist and Artist stands on a unique pedestal. It is the responsibility of the Government to protect his true image which may not be possible through likely uncontrolled commercialisation of his works after the copyright period ends on 31st December, 1991.

The Government have let it known that the provisions of the Copyright Act, 1957 were under comprehensive review and the issue of extension of copyright would be duly considered along with the ongoing review.

As the matter is very urgent, it is imperative to delink it with the comprehensive review of the Copyright Act, 1957 and early decision taken on the merit of the issue itself.

(viii) Need to Construct an overbridge at Chalakudy Railway Station

PROF. (SHRIMATI) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, construction of a foot over bridge at Chalakudy in place of the road closed by the Railways at the time of platform extension is essential. An existing road on the southern side of the Railway station crossing the rail track from East to West of Chalakudy Municipal area was closed by the Railway authorities without considering various problems of the commuters. On representation to the Southern Railway authorities, the response from the authorities was not favourable. Moreover, the existing road was closed permanently.

The four divisions of Chalakudy Municipal areas on the western side of the track and the school going small children, immobile patients, pregnant women, office going per-

sonnel are forced to cross the track to reach the eastern side risking their lives to reach their destinations of work.

In view of the above difficulties, I strongly urge upon the Government of India for an early construction of a foot over bridge at Chalakudy railway station connecting western side and eastern side of the railway track.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eighteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI P.M. SAYED *in the Chair*]

FINANCE (NO. 2) BILL - 1991 — *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further consideration of the Finance (No. 2) Bill. Shri Ram Kapse to continue his speech.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Yesterday when I started my speech, I have reminded the Finance Minister of his post-budget press briefing. The Finance Minister stated the following objectives in presenting the Budget for the year 1991-92: the first was adjustment with a humane-face; the second was, encouragement to economic growth and the third was checking inflation. Now, after nearly two months it is clear that we have galloping inflation and the price rise is nearly 20 per cent even in the period of August-September, the months in which inflation is generally under control. So, you can imagine about the next few months.

Sir, in this connection I would like to say