

crores -- to be completed within three years. This project has already been approved by the Planning Commission, and has been included in the Pin Book, as submitted, along with the Budget, by the Ministry of Railways. The rail link has been segregated into the following stretches: (a) Udampur to Katra; (b) Katra to Qazigund; and (c) Qazigund-Srinagar-Baramula. This, however, leaves the main stretches of Katra to be connected to Qazigund. It is understood that there will be three major tunnels at 0 km, 6 km, and the next 6 Km, in addition to many small tunnels and bridges, between Katra and Qazigund (Kashmir).

Keeping in view the economic slide in Jammu & Kashmir, it is necessary to give a fillip to the economy of the State, by completing this most important railway line on a war-footing. Had this rail link been completed, connecting Kashmir with the rest of India, that too at a much lesser cost, during the fifties or sixties, there would have been no political or economic problem in Kashmir today. So, I would urge upon the hon. Prime Minister of India to get this National Project executed on a war footing.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with what Mirza Abdul Rashid has said.

SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I associate myself with what Mirza Abdul Rashid has said.

Providing Internet connection at Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam Districts of Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. KAMARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am to state that Internet service is very essential for better communication in the modern world. The Telecommunication Ministry entered into a contract with the VSNL a few years back, and provided Internet facility at Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts of Tamil Nadu. The users had their accounts with the VSNL; and they were getting their connections very easily. The Department of Telecommunications is now called the BSNL, and it is now providing Internet facility at all places. There was an announcement that the accounts of the VSNL account holders would be transferred to the BSNL and that BSNL would provide the Internet facility. But the erstwhile VSNL account holders are unable to get Internet connections and are facing hardships in the above two districts. I request the Government, through this House, to take necessary steps to provide proper Internet facility for the erstwhile account holders of the VSNL, through the BSNL, at Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu. Thank you, Sir.