

7.00 P.M.

I, therefore, demand, through you, Sir, and this august House, to the Central Government particularly the Railway Ministry to release its share of Rs. 8 crores for the completion of the Panchpawli railway flyover in Nagpur. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

Career Counselling to Students

DR. (SHRIMALI) IIRIARATI RAY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to focus attention on a matter which concerns the lives and careers of the student population of our country. It has assumed great importance in view of the unemployment crisis in the country especially unemployment of the educated youth. Sir, in terms of brain power, India is very rich but the potential of our students, who are so intelligent, is not utilised fully because of lack of direction. The potential goes waste. Most of them have no employment, or wrong people have been put in wrong places. They are driven into careers not suitable to them. That is to say that the potential and career do not match. As an educationist, I find it very, very sad to see the frustration among the meritorious students. Let alone students from villages, even from cities and towns do not have much idea about the new emerging horizons in special fields. They might have just known the terms like DNA or genetic engineering but they have not much idea about what these entail and the scope they offer or the privileges expertise brings. I think, it is very necessary to acquaint our young people with new horizons as well as available options. It is equally necessary to assess the flair of each young mind and guide it towards the right choice suitable for it. In short, our students urgently and desperately need career counselling. Even the National Education Policy has a mention about this but the infrastructure has not been set up. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to this point

and request them to take effective steps for career counselling for our students.

Thank you.

Plight of Rubber Growers on Account of Reduction in Import Duty

SHRI JOY NADUKKARA (Kerala): I would like to invite the attention of this House to the difficulties faced by a section of agriculturists, the rubber growers of our country due to the unwise decision of this Government in the recent two-three months. 98% of rubber growers, are small farmers having one or two hectares of land holding. They are doing much to boost the economy of our country but, unfortunately, they are being ignored by the Governments. The proposal of the Government to reduce import duty on rubber from 25% to 20% actually is a blow to the rubber growers. We expected a change in the mind of the Finance Minister but, unfortunately, he did not do so. Within a week from the date of the proposal to reduce import duty on rubber there was a fall in the price of rubber from Rs. 48 to Rs. 42 per kg. Six rupees decrease in the price! Sir, actually this shows how severe was the impact of the decision on the domestic market of rubber. It may be argued that we have to compete with the international market and we cannot give special protection to a section of agriculturists. But, the thing is that the rubber growers in India are not placed in an equal position with the rubber growers of other countries of the world. Sir, rubber is a plantation which gives yield only after the seventh year of plantation. In those seven years no other crop is possible on that land. The rubber growers are getting no income from that land during the seven years. To compensate this, the Rubber Board is giving a subsidy of 14 per cent on the total cost of production.....(*Time Bell*)... In other countries they are giving 60 to 100 per cent subsidy to rubber growers. So, we cannot compete with them in the international market. Therefore, it is a crucial thing. In addition to that, the