

thought of for restructuring, supervised and monitored at the national level by a National Rural Bank of India:

The employees are coming forward with a statement that for maintaining, strengthening and developing the RRBs they are prepared to postpone their claim for Rs. 220 crores by two, three years, which they are entitled to get as arrears. It is a very good gesture on the part of the employees. Because this is not being responded to, all the officers and non-officers of the RRBs are observing a strike today, only to draw the attention of the Government that "We are not asking for our economic demands. We want the rural economy to be strengthened. The rural poor has got to be given the succour and relief. That is the purpose for formation of the National Rural Bank of India." That is why they are on strike today. I am trying to present their views on their behalf through you, to the Government. I hope that everybody in the House would join me in saying that RRBs should not be wiped out from the field of the rural credit system. That needs to be strengthened and established. Then the Government should agree to the demand for formation of the National Rural Bank of India.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHAN KAR DAYAL SINGH): Shri O. Rajagopal absent. Shri Ahmed Mohmedbhai Patel.

Need to Establish a Stock Exchange at Surat

SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL (Gujarat) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the delay on the part of the Union Government to sanction a Stock Exchange at Surat is depriving the country of foreign exchange inflow to the extent of millions of dollars. South Gujarat has a rich farming community specialising in cash crops. In Surat and Navsari almost every third family has a member settled abroad. Indeed, South Gujarat already receives foreign exchange remittances to the tune of \$15 million a year. Fifteen to twenty per cent of the transactions on the Bombay Stock Exchange are accounted for by Surat-based investors. SGSBA, an associa-

tion, has recently conducted a survey on the inconveniences felt by the investing public in the absence of a Stock Exchange in Surat. This survey yielded that there were delays in payments, problems of delivery, inability to take advantage of market fluctuations, excess brokerage, loss of brokerage and underwriters' commission in the case of public issues. In addition, Gujarat leads in subscription and a whopping thirty per cent of subscription is generated by the State mainly by three cities, namely, Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Surat. Among these cities, only Surat lacks a Stock Exchange. Surat has recorded a growth rate of 10 per cent compared to 3 per cent in Bombay and 2 per cent in Ahmedabad.

Sir, in view of this, I urge the Government not to delay any more the sanctioning of a Stock Exchange in Surat.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I support my colleague and associate myself with his special mention.

Train Accident in Maharashtra

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to express our deep sense of sorrow and shock at the tragic accident in which the Sahyadri Express rammed into a school bus carrying for a picnic young children. 7 to 8 years old, studying in second class in Prof. Nath Hari Purandare Primary School. As of now, 38 children and 3 teachers have lost their lives and many were wounded. Some of them are lying critical in the hospital. Little could any one of them have imagined that their joyful picnic was to end in such a gruesome tragedy. In fact, their parents must have waited for them to return and tell them the stories of their picnic. The whole House, I am sure, joins me in offering our deep condolences to the bereaved families and pray that those who were wounded would recover soon.

In a way this is not an accident, but a man-made tragedy. If only the railway crossing had been manned that tragedy could have been avoided. There are ac-

cording to a press report 38,000 railway crossings in the country, out of which, 15,775 crossings are unmanned. A railway crossing is manned only if the traffic exceeds 6000 units. This norm is not only arbitrary but unmindful of any consideration or safety either for the railway passengers or those crossing the railway line. The whole approach, if I may say so, is casual and callous to human life. It is unfortunate that safety consideration for human life is thrown to the wind by the Railways. This is wholly unpardonable. The least that can be done is that the Railways pay an ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 1 lakh for every death and Rs. 50,000 for every child or teacher injured. The stand of the Railway Minister not to pay any compensation is equally unacceptable. I hope that the Railway Minister will give an assurance to man every railway crossing within six months from today. Both on my behalf and on behalf of the entire House, I share the bereavement of those affected by this accident and I hope that this will be the last of the gruesome accidents caused on account of unmanned railway crossings. Thank you.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself with this special mention. We have been agitating in this House for a long time. This is not the first time that such a demand has been made. Unfortunately, we tend to react to situations when they arise rather than act before they arise. In the past, we have, on countless occasions, spoken about unmanned railway crossings and in this particular instance, unfortunately, the truth has come to us in a very horrible and tragic manner. I think it is about time that this House rose up as one and demanded from the Railway Ministry that all unmanned crossings, regardless of the amount of traffic, should be manned forthwith. Any life is precious. No matter if it is one life or a number of lives, any life is as precious as anything else and it cannot be computed in material terms. No matter what the amount of cost which may accrue to us, the fact is that we must man all our railway crossings. Thank you.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आपकी अनुमति से माननीय सदस्य ने जो स्पेशल मेंशन के माध्यम से बात उठाई है मैं उससे अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से इन रेलवे फाटकों की स्थिति है उनको जल्द से जल्द सरकार ठीक कराये ताकि इस तरह की शर्मनाक, दुखद जो घटनाएँ हो जाती हैं वह न हों,। इस दुर्घटना से इतने बच्चों की जान गई है यह बहुत ही शर्मनाक बात है, दुखद और दर्दनाक घटना है। मैं फिर से सरकार से माँग करता हूँ कि इस मामले में वह गम्भीरता से ध्यान देकर, जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि 6 महीने के अंदर सारे फाटकों को ठीक कराया जाए ताकि भविष्य में इस तरह की दुर्घटनाएँ न हों सकें।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a gruesome accident. In every Session of Parliament, here, we are discussing railway accidents and we are giving valuable suggestions to the hon. Railway Minister. The Railway Minister answers our questions. Thereafter, no follow-up action is taken by the Railway Ministry on the safety measures that have been suggested by hon. Members.

Now, the basic question is this. I do not want to go into the question of how the accident happened or who is to be blamed. What is paining me is that the Railway Minister, while ordering an inquiry into the full details of the accident, started blaming the driver of the bus. This act of the hon. Railway Minister coming to a conclusion before the inquiry is held, is very serious. Not only that. It was reported in newspapers that the Railway Minister blamed the driver of the bus. What like to submit is

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH) : Mr. Narayanasamy, the Railway Minister is going to make a statement in the House at 4 O'clock

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : All right, Sir. At that time, I will speak about this.

شری محمد خلیل الرحمن "آئندہ ہر پردیش":
جناب وائس چیرمین صاحب۔ بھنڈارے جی
نے جو اسپیشل مینشن کیا ہے اس کے میں

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : पूरा सदन और पूरा देश इस हादसे से स्तब्ध है। शाम को मंत्री महोदय का वक्तव्य होगा, उस वक्त आप अपनी बात कहें।

श्रीमती उमिताबेन चिमनभाई पटेल (गुजरात) : मैं अपने आप को यह जो बच्चों का हृदासा हुआ है उससे जोड़ती हूँ। उनके मां-बाप के दुख में हम सब शामिल हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि बजट आ रहा है। हमारे देश में जो बिना आदमी के गेट हैं उनमें गेटमैन रखने के लिए स्पेशल प्रोजेक्ट इस बजट में किया जाय तो हम इन हादसों को दूर कर सकते हैं। मैं चाहती हूँ कि इसके बारे में मंत्री जी विचार करें।

Fall in the Prices of Clove

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala) : Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the sharp fall in the prices of clove from Rs. 450 to Rs. 90 per kg. The production cost of one kg. clove will come to Rs. 200. The fall in price has happened due to the liberalisation of import of clove. If the present policy of the Government continues, the clove cultivation in our country will face extermination. The departments of Agriculture of "Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka took steps to popularise clove cultivation in the sixties. The propaganda attracted the enterprising farmers to take up clove cultivation. They are now frustrated and disappointed,

I request the Union Government either to ban import of clove or impose an import duty of at least 200 rupees per kg. and channellise our imports through Government agencies.

Power Shortage in Bihar due to Closure of NTPC Units of Farakka

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार का ध्यान एक विशेष महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ। पिछले दिनों समा-

चार पत्रों में भी आय कि एन०टी०पी०सी० अपना एक सुपर थर्मल पावर का एक युनिट जो फरक्का में है जिससे 180 मेगावाट उत्पादन होता था उसको 6 तारीख से बंद कर दिया है और दूसरा युनिट जो 180 मेगावाट का है उसको भी 11 तारीख को बंद करने वाले थे और बिहार के लिए बिजली की सप्लाई बिल्कुल बंद करने वाले थे। इस संदर्भ में आपके माध्यम से मैं सरकार को बताना चाहूंगी कि बिहार वैसे भी पावर स्टार्बर्ड स्टेट है। बिहार में जो विद्युत उत्पादन संयंत्र लगे हुए हैं वे सारे अपना जीवन काल समाप्त कर चुके हैं।

1.00 P.M.

पुरानी हो चुकी है और आज उससे सही उत्पादन नहीं हो पा रहा है। भारत सरकार ने अब तक बिहार में नए संयंत्र लगाये नहीं हैं। कहलगांव में लगाना था वह भी लगा नहीं पाये। कांठी थर्मल पावर वह भी ऐसे पड़ा हुआ है और वह भी नहीं हुआ है। साथ ही फरक्का को जो कोल दिया जाता है उसमें बिहार का एक्सप्लाइडेशन हो रहा है और बिहार में बिजली की आपूर्ति के मामले में भारत सरकार के एन०टी०पी०सी० ने कह दिया है कि वह बिहार को बिजली नहीं दे पायेंगे और बिजली बंद कर दी गयी है। मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कि इसका मतलब क्या है? बिहार के सारे कल-कारखाने बंद होंगे। भारत सरकार नहीं चाहती है कि बिहार तरक्की करे। बिहार को परेशान करने का काम भारत सरकार करती है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ क्योंकि देश में 40 प्रतिशत कोयला बिहार में उत्पादित होता है कोल इंडिया के पास बिहार सरकार का लगभग साढ़े चार सौ करोड़ रुपया अभी भी बकाया पड़ा हुआ है। वह यह बिहार सरकार को नहीं दे रही है। दूसरी तरफ हमसे बकाया वापस लेने की धमकियां दी जा रही हैं। यह अत्यन्त अन्याय की बात है। जो बिहार का पावना भारत सरकार के पास पड़ा हुआ है। मैं चाहती हूँ कि भारत सरकार इसका तत्काल भुगतान कर दे और इजी इंस्टालमेंट में हमारी जो बकाया राशि