

has no) come. If it is really a sabotage, what action will be taken ? This is the message which should go from here.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: These areas are known to the State Government and also to the Centre. The Railway authorities are in touch with the State Government. As you know, law and order is the responsibility of the State Government. Naturally, in an area of this nature, we will get in touch with the State Government and, in co-ordination, adopt measures in order to avoid the recurrence of such accidents. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : This matter is over. We now take up Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Now we take up special mentions. Shri Ram Awadhesh Singh not there. Shri Anantray Dave. Shri Ram-sinh Rathwa, Shri Krishan Lal Sharma, not there. Shri Ranjit Singh, Shrimati Mira Das, Shri Ramdas Agarwal, Shri Ashwani Kumar, not there. Now Shri V. M. Jadhav.

Demand for Declaration of 11 Maharashtra State Highways as National Highways

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Thank you Madam for giving me an opportunity to make a special mention.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, if you take up special mentions today, only you will be in the Chair and the person to make the special mention will be in the House. All the Members are going away.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): I will request the hon. Members to wait only for ten minutes

more because there are only two Members present to make the special mention.

Yes, Shri Jadhav.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Madam, my special mention is about declaration of National Highways in Maharashtra State with special reference to the Marathwada region. The State Government had forwarded to the Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India, a proposal of 11 State Highways having a length of 4679 kms. for declaring them as National Highways as per Government letter No. 1082/CR-10 15/NH-I dated 30th July, 1985. The State Highways proposed for declaration as National Highways are included in Road Development Plan 1981-2001 of Maharashtra. In the Seventh Five Year Plan due to constraint of resources it could not be taken up; that is what the Government of India has informed the state Government on 20th March, 1990 and 3rd September, 1990. Hon. Public Works Minister and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra respectively had discussions with the Union Transport Minister and subsequently in July and August 1991 the Chief Minister of Maharashtra raised this issue with the Union Transport Minister for declaration of the State Highways as National Highways, and the Union Minister said that these will be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Later on, it was said that the Eighth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised and at this stage it was not possible to declare them as National Highways.

Madam, this is with special reference to my region Marathwada. Out of a total length of 5,000 kms. we are having only 50 kms. Madam, our region is economically very backward but agriculturally it is a very potential region of the State. So, there are some important State Highways proposed to be declared as national Highways. One of them is Solapur-Osmanabad-Beed-Aurangabad-Dhule. It goes upto Vadodara. The length of this road is 642 kms. I would like to mention these roads because it should come on the record. The second is, Bombay-Ahmednagar,

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

Nanded Jagdalpur 660 kms, Ratnagiri-Solapur-Nagpur 807 kms, Western Coastal Highway 704 kms., Surat-Dhule 127 kms., Indore-Amiavati-Yeotmal-Chander-pore 597 kms., Aurangabad-Nanded-Hyderabad 351 kms., Aurangabad-Ajantha-Edlabad-Barhanpur 201 kms., Betul-Nag-pur-Chanderpore-PattEguddam 408 kms., Amravati-Pandhurna 96 kms., Mangal-wadha-Jat-Belgaurn 86 kms. The total length of the State Highways is 4679 kms. As the Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Union Surface Transport Minister and the Planning Commission that these State Highways are very important and the Union Minister for Surface Transport has also agreed that this will be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan, I would request the hon. Minister for Surface Transport and the Finance Minister through you Madam, to include them in the Eighth Five Year Plan for declaring them as National Highways. Madam, the Eighth Five Year Plan is in the stage of formulation and therefore, action must be taken in this regard.

Madam, the Parliament has passed a modified resolution on 13th May, 1985. Accordingly the State Government is to get 5 per cent amount of the total sale of petrol and diesel which is to be credited under Central road fund. It has to be utilized for road development as per the guidelines laid down by the Central Government. Consequently, the Maharashtra Government has to get a sum of Rs. 40 crores every year through this source. This amount also is not made available, in spite of repeated requests from the State PWD Minister and the Chief Minister

It has also been learnt that the World Bank has given financial assistance for the development of the Aurangabad-Nirmal road which goes via Nanded, which is my home town. But the road is diverted from Mantha which is 125 kilometres away from Aurangabad towards Vidarbha and the amount utilized there. Aurangabad and Nanded are two big cities in Marathwada, distance between which is 265 kilometres. So the World Bank fund should be entirely

utilized for the development of the Aurangabad-Nanded-Nirmal road without any short circuits for the diversion of funds.

Madam, Maharashtra is a very progressive State but my region in Maharashtra, the Marathwada region, is as backward as Bihar and other backward regions of Uttar Pradesh. So it is very essential that the Surface Transport Ministry should declare these very important State highways as National Highways and give sufficient funds in the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Dr. Sivaji.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH (Bihar): Is my name there, Madam ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): I called your name but you were not there. At the end again. I will call your name.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: No possibility in between ?

.... (Interruptions)

Growing Stocks of Unsold Cotton Lying with Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, about 21 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton valued at more than Rs. 200 crores are stagnating with the growers in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh, thanks to the Cotton Advisory Board's strange action of effecting changes in the supply and demand estimates. It is done with the connivance of the textile industry at the cost of the growers. Due to these unwarranted alterations in the estimates, the price of cotton has dropped from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 800 per quintal. The original estimate of this year's production was 130 lakh bales, the carry-over stock is 22.2 lakh bales and the demand is about 117.5 lakh bales, both mill and non-mill consumption. This estimate was of August 1991. On 25th November 1991, in this