

Need to expedite construction of Railway Line between Salem and Karur via Namakkal in Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.K. VEERAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to an important and long-pending matter regarding the formation of a new railway line between Salem and Karur via Namakkal in Tamil Nadu. Regarding this, I got a reply to my Untarred Question No. 1187 dated 18-5-1990 from the Railway Minister. I quote: "Survey for the railway line has been completed and the work has not been approved for construction". I do not know when the Government is going to approve this scheme. I want to submit that, if the railway line between Salem and Karur is formed it will not only help the people living there but also help the people of the Southern parts of Tamil Nadu up to Cape Comorin and also help the people of North India. Daily, thousands of people are travelling from South to North and from North to South for the purpose of business, worship and other purposes. They are required to travel either by road or by a deviated rail route. To save time, most of the people prefer road journey which is resulting in a heavy traffic on NH-7. Accidents have become quite common on NH-7 leading to loss of many precious human lives. Moreover, there are a number of industrially growing towns like Namakkal, Mohanur and Rasipuram in that area. If a railway line is formed, it will help them to send their goods to other areas and also bring the raw materials at cheaper rates than by road transport. Apart from this, the people living in that area have to go more than 50 Km. to take a train for their railway journey. The people of that area are suffering a lot without the rail facility. Regarding this, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar, had also made a request to the then Railway Minister at a function held at Madras last year. In spite of several requests the Government has not taken any steps to form a new railway line between Salem and Karur. So, through this Special Mention I would request the honourable Minister to consider the necessity and the importance of this railway line and to include formation of a rail line between Salem and Karur via Namakkal in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Infiltration of Insurgents into North-Eastern States from Across the Borders of Bangladesh and Myanmar

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, with your permission I want to raise an important issue affecting the security and defence of the country.

Alarming reports of infiltration of foreign trained insurgents into Manipur

and other north-eastern areas are causing a deep concern. Only a few days ago eleven policemen were killed in a dadung ambush of a security convoy by armed guerrillas of an organisation known as the National Socialist Council of Nagaland at Lokchao on Myanmar border on December, 10. While this organisation is active in the hill districts, the PLA has raised its head in the Imphal Valley with help from across the Bangladesh border. Only yesterday five persons belonging to the security forces were killed by insurgents. As you know, the flow of Chinese arms into Assam is well known. The Manipur Chief Minister has openly said that he had definite information about the open support being given by the Myanmar Government to insurgent groups in the north-east. Also the PLA militants were trained extensively in the Sylhet district of Bangladesh and had found their way into Manipur. According to the police, there were PLA training camps at four other places also in Bangladesh—at Chota Damar, Bhanukhashi, Nandodri and Basagaon. Otherwise also, Bangladesh were infiltrating in large number into the neighbouring Indian territory systematically. Even in other towns of India, one could find Bangladesh in large numbers, including in Delhi. All this is illegal migration carried out under a nefarious plan. Besides, there is open infiltration of Pakistani nationals into Rajasthan from across the Pakistani border.

All these developments are quite disturbing and are causing widespread alarm in the country. The Bangladesh Government is said to be denying any knowledge of helping the armed insurgents infiltrating into the north-eastern region. But the facts are quite well known. Bangladesh is clearly guilty of deliberately and openly helping insurgents in every way like Myanmar. The Government should let the House know the correct facts about these developments and the steps being taken by the Government to meet this situation and the threats of destabilisation of the country. The Government should make a statement as soon as possible. Luckily the Minister of State for Home Affairs is here. He may have got some information on this. I would request him, through you, to please respond to this Special Mention.

SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR (Maharashtra) : Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, actually there is a discussion before the House on the grow-