

[Shri Basant Kumar Das]

is diverted to the Paradip Port, at an investment of about Rs. 40 crores, during the Eighth Five-Year Plan. However, the detailed project report prepared by the consultants, Ocean Engineering Centre, I.I.T., Madras, envisages an outlay of Rs. 107.8 crores, out of which the State Government expects Rs. 52 crores as assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

Sir, this matter has been referred to the Ministry of Finance by the Government of Orissa. The Chief Minister of Orissa has also written a DO letter to the Finance Minister. On behalf of the Government of Orissa, I am placing the matter before you, and through you, before the Government, and request that this matter may be taken up with the Asian Development Board for getting the assistance for the Gopalpur Port during the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orissa) : Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

Need to observe Birth Centenary of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am raising a matter on which, I think, cutting across party lines, irrespective of party affiliation, everybody will agree.

The year 1990 is the birth centenary year of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, popularly known as Frontier Gandhi of Badshah Khan. It would be a great occasion for us to celebrate this occasion, not merely to pay homage to him, to his life and work, but also to inspired the younger generation, the youth, to follow the ideals for which he stood, such as secularism and unity.

In the present context, it will be very appropriate if we observe the birth centenary of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan. We have already lost eight months of the year. I suggest that the Government of India should come forward with a plan. We should involve non-Governmental organisations also. We can commemorate his birth centenary through publications, bringing out a postage stamp, organising semi-

nars by inviting speakers from the SAARC countries, producing a film on his life and work and instituting an award for communal harmony. Of course, the Government may also consider, particularly, the Sports Authority of India, the possibility of holding a tournament, say, in hockey or football, involving the SAARC countries.

I, think, if we do so, we can also correct, to some extent, the mistake we committed in the past. Sir, he felt betrayed when the Congress accepted the proposal for partition. In the real sense, he was thrown to the wolf. Now, his birth centenary has given us an opportunity. As far as my knowledge goes, the previous Government was planning to celebrate his birth centenary in a befitting manner. Now, the new Government has come. Therefore, the Government should come forward with a plan, I repeat, involving others also. It will be a tribute to Badshah Khan. Through observance of his birth centenary we can inculcate the teachings of his life, particularly the simple and austere life he led, his organisational capability, the way he inspired people for modern education, for unity, for secularism, for unity. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh) : I associate myself with this.

SHRIMATI SAYEEDA KHATUN (Madhya Pradesh) : I also associate myself with this.

Serious injuries to some journalists in the police lathi-charge during anti-reservation stir in Orissa.

SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this august House to the brutal attack of police on journalists in Orissa. A serious situation has arisen in the State of Orissa where the working journalists have been brutally attacked by the police. The administration has completely failed in protecting the interest of the State, interest of the people and the interest of journalists who are performing their duties.

Sir, during the anti-reservation stir in the State at least five journalists have been seriously injured. One journalist, Shri Harilal Das Gupta, staff reporter of 'Praja-