

[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-

tantra daily, received bullet injury on his back and his condition is very serious. He is being treated in SCB hospital, Cuttack. Mr. Das Gupta, while shouting with his identity card, was shot at his back twice and he fell down on the ground. Besides this, Mr. Deb Prasad Chatterjee, photo journalist of 'Prajatantra' daily, Mr. Saubhagya Shankar Ray, the reporter of 'Samvad' daily, Shri Pushp Mitra Mohanty and two reporters of 'Sun Times' have been grievously injured.

Sir, the crux of the matter is that none in the Government seems to be concerned about the journalists who have been brutally attacked by the police. I strongly condemn this barbarous attack of the police on journalists which are discharging their duties. It is quite depressing that the party in power who has promised to ensure press freedom in its pre-election promises, has started suppressing the press through brutal police force. It is a pity to know that the Orissa Government has not shown any concern about these injured journalists. It has done nothing to arrange for their treatment and early recovery. Sir, there is a total failure of law and order in the State of Orissa. There is virtually police raj and the rule of law is no longer existing in the State. The police have started using repressive methods of trampling under foot the democratic rights of the people who ventilate their grievances through peaceful methods. The teargas, lathi-charge and unprovoked firing on unarmed students, youths and the general public, have now become the daily occurrence there. Such has become the law and order situation in many important towns like Cuttack and Kendrapara where curfew was imposed for several days. It is for the first time in twenty years that there has been a compelling situation of break-down of law and order where the Government tries to contain a popular movement by means of continuous curfew.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has admitted in a press conference that the situation has gone out of control and the police administration is weak, resulting in unprovoked firing and repression.

As you know, Sir, recently the Chief Minister has been making self-contradictory statements on various policy matters like

Mandal Commission Report. Because of that the administration suffers from utter lack of direction. The democratic rights have been suppressed. When the leaders of the Congress and M.Ps. were going in a peaceful procession to present a memorandum to the Governor at Raj Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, day before yesterday, the police lathi-charged them and all the leaders were arrested. It is very regrettable and pitiable. A Student Congress boy, the State General Secretary of NSUI and the President, Cuttack Student Congress, was shot at sight. The shot went through his head and he died on the spot. But his body was not returned to his parents. This is unheard of. When Mr. Bhutto was hanged in Pakistan, his dead body was returned to his relatives. What crime have the parents of that boy committed that they have been refused the custody of the dead body of their son? Up till now, the Government has said that six persons have died. But more than eight students have died and a number of students are untraceable by their parents up till now.

So, I demand that the Government should pay compensation to those journalists who were injured. They should compensate their loss and should also compensate the kith and kin of those who have died.

Secondly, I demand a judicial enquiry in these incidents, especially that in which the journalists have been injured to find out in what circumstances they have been injured when they had shown their identity cards and why they were lathi-charged.

Sir, day before yesterday, on behalf of the public the Congress demanded in the memorandum submitted at Raj Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, that the Central Government should impose President's rule in the State. I also urge upon this Government that in order to restore peace, in order to restore law and order in the State, the State Government of Orissa should be dismissed immediately and under Art. 356 of the Constitution, President's rule should be imposed. Thank you.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I want to associate myself with the Special Mention of Mr. Lenka.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): I also associate myself with this. The situation in Orissa is deplorable....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Very well. Your names will come as associating with this.

आप बैठ जाइए... (व्यवधान)

डा. अब्दुल अहमद खान (राजस्थान) : मैं इनका समर्थन करता हूँ कांग्रेस के सदस्यों को वहाँ की सरकार अपमानित कर रही है यह बहुत ही निन्दनीय है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह आग्रह करूँगा कि इस पर अवश्य कार्रवाई करे। (व्यवधान)

डा. रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : हमारी पार्टी से एम. एल. ए. का चुनाव लड़ा था वहाँ के मुख्य मंत्री के खिलाफ (व्यवधान) वहाँ के मुख्य मंत्री की साजिश से ही वह मारा गया। (व्यवधान)

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : मुख्य मंत्री के खिलाफ चुनाव लड़ा है। उनको मरवा दिया और लाश तक नहीं लौटाई। (व्यवधान)

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Sir, I want an inquiry...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Your association will be noted, that's all.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA : I want an inquiry into the attack on the journalist. The number of attacks on journalists are increasing all over the country. There should be an immediate inquiry into it. The Government of India should also contact the Orissa Government and make a statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Mr. Kapil Verma, your Special Mention is there.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Sir, the attack on the journalist is condemnable.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS (Orissa): Sir, may I draw your kind attention?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Let us not enter into a debate.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS : Sir, I will not take much of your time. I will speak only for one minute. Sir, it is a fact. As it is going on throughout the country, the agitation is definitely going on in Orissa, led by the Congress (I).

... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Point of order. ... (Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Honourable Members..... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : *

DR. RATNAKAR PENDEY : *

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) : Vermaji, you want to make your Special Mention? ... (Interruptions) Mr. Das, I am on my legs.... (Interruptions) Please sit down..... (Interruptions) Please sit down (Interruptions) Nothing will go on record, which has not been permitted.

(Interruptions)

Please sit down. (Interruptions)

Hon. Members must understand that when the Chair is standing, they must sit down.

(Interruptions)

Let us calm down. I have not yet taken my.....

(Interruptions)

Just see, a special mention is not a debate.

(Interruptions)

Nothing will go on record, which is not with my permission.

Now, Mr. Kapil Verma.

*Not recorded.