

[श्री ईश दत्त यादव]

शाहगंज तक बड़ी रेल लाइन बनायी जाये  
और इस क्षेत्र में उद्योग-धंधे, कुटीर उद्योग  
और कारखाने लगाये जाएं। धन्यवाद।

Damage to Government and private property  
in Sikkim due to earthquake

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN (Sikkim) : Madam, Deputy Chairman, all hon. Members are aware of the severe earthquake that hit North-East India and Nepal about a week ago. It caused large scale damage to life and property in certain areas of Bihar. The Central Government rushed assistance to the unfortunate victims there. The Prime Minister, other Central Ministers, prominent Congress (I) leaders and opposition leaders have all visited the affected areas of Bihar to oversee the relief works and to give support and comfort to the sufferers. Government aid and aid from various voluntary organisations continues to be rendered to these areas. More assistance needs to be given. Sikkim has also suffered major damage from the same earthquake. However, as Sikkim is a tiny State in the remote corner, happenings there do not provoke much interest in the rest of the country and often go unremarked. Therefore, Madam, through you I wish to draw the attention of the House to the extensive damage caused by last week's earthquake in Sikkim also, particularly in those areas bordering Nepal. Many public and private buildings, a few ancient monasteries, a number of hospitals, schools and power installations in different parts of the State have sustained serious damage. The State Government Secretariat, the Assembly House, the Raj Bhawan, the Police Headquarters and other major buildings in the capital Gangtok have developed huge cracks. Over 735 houses have been damaged and 71 houses have been evacuated and the people moved. Worse, the vibrations of the earthquake combined with heavy monsoon rains have caused landslides all over the State, damaging roads, bridges and culverts. These landslides have become daily occurrence since the earthquake.

Sikkim is entirely dependent on the National Highway No. 31 and her internal network of roads for all transport, supplies and communications. Thus the earthquake repercussions have affected the entire State. Even the relief work is made difficult due to blocked roads, and helpers have to walk to the affected areas in heavy rains. To add to these miseries, the State is cut off nearly every day from the rest of the country due to landslides on the main highway, which is Sikkim's only link with the outside world. Supply of essential commodities to the State has been badly affected. Already, there is food shortage in the State. The Chief Minister has set up a cell for monitoring relief operations and has asked for Central aid. The State Administration has been fully geared up to meet the situation. However, Sikkim is a small State with scarce resources.

I, therefore, through you Madam, request the Government of India to sanction immediately an ad hoc grant to Sikkim for meeting urgent relief works. I also request the Government of India to send a team of experts to Sikkim immediately to make an on the spot assessment of the extent of actual damage and to provide adequate funds for all the repairs and restoration works that may be required.

Refusal by Doordarshan to telecast a film on Jayaprakash Narayan's life

श्री सत्यप्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

माननीया उपसभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं इस सदन का ध्यान और सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि आज जो यह दूरदर्शन है, इसकी नीति कितनी अलोकतांत्रिक, दोष-पूर्ण और निरंकुश हो गई है। इस देश में भारत के प्रथम राष्ट्रपति डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी ने सर्वप्रथम 15 सितंबर, 1959 को दूरदर्शन का उद्घाटन किया था। आज दूरदर्शन इस देश में देश की काफी जनसंख्या देखती है और जो विभिन्न लोगों के परस्पर