

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 6th July, 2009 will consist of:-

General Discussion on Budget (Railways) for 2009-10.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Scarcity of Drinking Water in Darjeeling

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Planning Commission, sometime back, had sanctioned a scheme for lifting water from the Balasan River to meet the long-time drinking water requirement of the hill district of Darjeeling. The project commenced in July 2007, but it has not seen the light of the day and is causing huge distress to the large hill population. Water scarcity is having adverse impact on the health and social well being of the people there. Water scarcity in the hill district of Darjeeling is very acute and deserves an early intervention by the Union Government. This speaks loud on the development which has taken place in North Bengal so much so that this has resulted in implications of raising a separate State for which the people of Gorkha Land have been struggling. They have been agitating for more than three decades now. The aspirations of the people which basically stem from development issues for the plains; the neglect of the Queen of Hills with poor infrastructure, lack of education facilities and neglect of tea gardens coupled with growing discontent in the Doars region and the plains of the hill district is a matter of concern. Recently, when there was Cyclone Aila, 32 people got killed in the landslides, and there was absolutely no infrastructural plan or disaster management plan. As a result, the state of affairs in the region is such that the large hill destination is growing into a slum area. There has been a consistent neglect of the entire region of North Bengal which has created this situation, and this is creating great unrest in that part of the country. Sir, it is a matter which deserves the attention of the House because as we are saying, there is chicken-hack kind of a situation in the State. The State borders three nations; it is a gateway to Bhutan. Being an international border, there are a lot of ramifications and a lot of implications on what is happening in that particular region of North Bengal. And the unrest in that region, which takes place again and again, has created a situation where it is becoming dangerous for the country. Moreover, with a large influx of Bangladeshis in that region, the situation has changed the demographic profile of that area. So, we will request the Union Government to look into the aspects as far as the issue of Ghorkhaland and the issue of the Nepali-lineage Indian citizens are concerned. These are issues which need to be addressed by the Government.

Need to open a Sub Centre of the New mechanism to check

Naxlite violence in Chhattisgarh

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): धन्यवाद उपसभापति जी। मैं छत्तीसगढ़ में नक्सली समस्या के संबंध में कुछ बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। 25 फरवरी को माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने यह बात कही थी कि छत्तीसगढ़ में