

all of a sudden. Because the railway authorities decided to cancel Him Sagar Express permanently from the 1st of October, 1987. I am inclined to make this special mention in this august House because this train was really helpful to the Keralites working in various stations north of Delhi, such as Ambala, Rajpura, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Pathankot and Jammu Tawi. This train was also used by the business community of the north for their frequent travel to the south. In a democratic developing country like ours the Government is making all efforts for the welfare of the people. But in the case of the people living at far off places from the capital they feel that they are denied their just and reasonable needs by such sudden action of the authorities. Instead of increasing the frequency of this very important train, the Government decided to cancel it, leaving the public, the beneficiaries in utter despair. I would therefore request the authorities to restore Him Sagar Express with an increased frequency of at least three days a week with immediate effect. According to available information there are more than thirty thousand Keralites living in Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Besides them there are a large number of Malayalee service personnel posted in border States. Since most of them are living here with family leaving their parents and relatives in Kerala ..

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA):** Please conclude now. You can write the details to the Minister.

**SHRI T. K. C. VADUTHALA:** I therefore appeal, through you, to the Government to take immediate steps to restore Him Sagar Express and do justice to the people of Kerala without much delay.

**Threat to the life span of Hirakud Dam due to fast siltation and sedimentation**

**SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA (Orissa):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to a news item published in a section of the press re-

garding the threat to the life span of the Hirakud Dam due to fast siltation and sedimentation. Sir, this dam was built in mid-fifties with the object of controlling floods, providing irrigation and production of power. The project has brought a change in the social, economic and cultural life of the people of Orissa. The press report says that the biggest multi-purpose river valley project 'Hirakud', constructed in the mid-fifties in Orissa, is now being threatened with fast siltation and sedimentation leading to a premature end of its life span according to a remote sensing study. According to the latest hydrographic survey conducted during 1981, the original capacity of the dam has been reduced from 8105 million cubic metres to 6626 million cubic metres, registering a loss of 0.7 per cent per year. Remote sensing techniques applied for easy computation of the area of the reservoir also reveal that there has been a loss of 1.3 per cent of the dead storage capacity per year along with 0.5 per cent loss of the live storage and 0.7 per cent of gross storage per year owing to fast sedimentation. Built across the river Mahanadi, about 15 km up stream of Sambalpur, the reservoir, with a projected life span of 120 years, aims mainly at controlling flood besides providing irrigation to about two lakh hectares with an installation capacity of 240 MW of power. Renovation of Hirakud Dam is very badly necessary since dredging is impossible owing to a large number of stumps inside the water. Some new technique has to be found out to take up the renovation work. The Government should take immediate action to save the Hirakud Reservoir from siltation and sedimentation so that the people of the State would be benefited by this multi-purpose river valley project.

**Need for Central Government Enquiry into the illegal establishment of a Cigarette Factory at Vairengte (Mizoram)**

**DR. C. SILVERA (Mizoram):** Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to bring

[Dr. C. Silvera]

to the notice of the Government a matter which is of urgent public importance. An unlicensed and illegal cigarette manufacturing firm, known as the North Eastern Tobacco Company, was allowed to establish a factory at Vairengte, Mozaram, by the Government of Mizoram. A permit was issued by the State Government and a firm was registered by the Industry Department on the 9th October, 1987 to manufacture popular brands of cigarettes in technical cooperation with the Golden Tobacco Company of Bombay. But no Central Excise permit was obtained by this firm. The firm is owned by two Mizos, Mr. Lianlinga of Venghuli, Aizwal, and Mr. Lalchungnunga of Tanhrial, Aizwal. Both of them are close relatives of Mr. Saingura Sailo, the State Law Minister, Mr. Richard T. Sailo (a non-Mizo) who is holding the power of attorney on behalf of the North Eastern Tobacco Co., is the brother-in-law of the minister and is directly in charge of the factory. When the Customs and Excise authorities came to know of this illegal and unlicensed cigarette factory and raided on the 31st October 1987, the firm had already evaded excise duty to the tune of Rs 67 lakhs. According to Mr. Prabhas Chatterjee and Mr. K. Krishna Murthy employees of the Golden Tobacco Company, who were detained by the local Customs and Excise authority, the firm would have evaded payment of Rs. 40 crores of excise duty annually, if this illegal practice is allowed to go on. I, therefore, in the interest of the Government and the public, demand an immediate high level enquiry by an appropriate Central agency which will look into the matter. Action should be taken against the culprits. Thank you.

**Need to check the use of unfair means in Election Campaigns**

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the malpractices and unfair means adopted

at the time of elections. In our country, it has become a common practice to buy votes by spending lakhs of rupees by a candidate even for an Assembly seat, not to speak of a Parliamentary seat. Moreover, all sorts of unfair means are adopted to tempt and to win over voters. Even a child in the country today knows that whenever an election takes place, some candidates, specially of the ruling party in the Centre, would pour money like water, would distribute clothes, blankets and distribute even wine among voters. What happened recently in the Nagaland elections should be an eye-opener to the sensible people of the country. I demand institution of an enquiry by some neutral intelligence agency to find out how much of money was spent by each candidate for his seat.

In this regard the case of Dimapur constituency itself should be taken as an example. It has become an open secret that some persons of the ruling party carried bundles of currency to Nagaland to help the candidates of their party. This should also be inquired into. It is a simple thing to imagine that a candidate, after being returned to the Legislature or Parliament, does not get even one small part of that huge amount he or she had spent on his or her election, as remuneration. Why and how then could he or she spend such a big amount on the election for the sake of a small remuneration in return? Do we in this way give licence to indulging in corruption in our social life? All sorts of malpractices are indulged in to win seats in the election. Even violent means are resorted to in some cases for the purpose of booth-capturing which is a common phenomenon these days. The same thing is going to happen in the bye-election of Nadia constituency in Assam which is going to take place on 27th December 1987. In this connection, it should also be ascertained\*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): References to the Governor should not be recorded. And now please conclude.

\*Not recorded.