

[Shri R. Ramakrishnan]

which will be used for crime detection, road traffic control, etc. Sir, as you know, the Tamil Nadu police has had a very impressive record regarding enforcement of law and order and crime detection and, even in the past, it has been commented upon favourably by even Scotland Yard. Our honourable Chief Minister, Dr. MGR, who is always looking after the toiling masses and their welfare, wants to make special efforts to see that the crime rate in Tamil Nadu is kept down and the good record of the Tamil Nadu police in the past is kept up. With this in view, the Tamil Nadu Government has recently decided to go in for this specialised aircraft which is capable of low flying and which is equipped with special radar and other equipment including gun and other patrolling equipment. It can fly at altitudes of less than 1,000 feet and it can take off from and land on strips of 100 to 150 feet. It can also fly in all weather conditions. Sir, each aircraft is reported to cost something between Rs. 2.5 lakhs and ten lakhs. We would request the Government of India to give permission for the same including the release of the necessary foreign exchange for this purpose. Sir, this will be used not only for crime detection but also—because in our vast metropolitan cities the problem of traffic is assuming all importance—this will be used for road traffic surveillance from the air. Also, during floods and other such natural calamities it can be used for survey and dropping of food packets. A similar type of Chetak helicopter if gone in for—I am incidentally making this point—will cost one crore of rupees. But this type of aircraft, four or five together, would cost only 30 to 40 lakhs of rupees. Therefore, I would request the Government of India to give early sanction for the same. Before concluding, I would also like to mention that this has been used successfully in Los Angeles in 1966. It was called *Operation Skynight* and this had made that a tremendous success. In these days of advanced modern technology, Tamil Nadu wants to be a pioneer in this. Thank you.

#### REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR A BROAD GAUGE LINE BETWEEN DARBHANGA AND SAMASTIPUR

श्री राम भगत पासवान (बिहार): उप-सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय रेल मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दरभंगा समस्तीपुर ब्रॉड गेज लाइन के निर्माण की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। यह वही रेलवे लाइन है जिसमें भूतपूर्व रेल मंत्री स्वर्गीय ललित नारायण मिश्र जी ने जीवन की अन्तिम यात्रा की थी, दरभंगा से समस्तीपुर आ कर वे यहां उद्घाटन समारोह में सहोद हुए थे। मैं भी वहां था। हम लाखों का मेमोरेंडम ले कर वहां गए थे और मंत्र को भी बम के टुकड़े लगें थे। मैं भी मल्ल रूप से घायल हुआ था। मैंने भी इस लाइन के चलो में खून बहाया है। उन्होंने वहां पर लाखों जनता के बीच आश्वासन दिया था कि तीन साल के अन्दर ब्रॉड गेज लाइन बन जाएगी। फिर उसके बाद दूसरे रेल मंत्री स्वर्गीय केदार पांडे ने 18 अप्रैल, 1981 को विधिवत उद्घाटन कर दिया और यह आश्वासन दिया कि तीन साल के अन्दर यह बन जाएगी सारा मेट्रोपॉलिटन गिर गया था, कार्य प्रारम्भ हो गया था, 70 लाख रुपये सर्वे पर भी खर्च हो गया, बिहार सरकार ने जमीन दे दी। कार्य प्रारम्भ होने के बावजूद भी दूसरे रेल मंत्री आए तो यह कार्य वापिस कर लिया गया। इसमें आम जनता में काफी आकांक्षे हैं। प्रतिदिन हजारों की संख्या में लोग गिरफ्तारी दे रहे हैं। इसलिए रेल मंत्री महोदय से मेरा आग्रह है, बार-बार उनसे आग्रह किया जा रहा है कि धार्मिक दृष्टिकोण से और सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण इसको शीघ्र बनाया जाना चाहिए। इसके साथ-साथ आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से यह लाइन बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। जितना माल बड़ी लाइन से जाना होता है वह समस्तीपुर के रजदीक गरीबों में रुक जाता है जिससे इनको बहुत रुपये डेमेरेज के रूप में देना पड़ता है। महात्मा गांधी मंत्र बन जाने से उत्तर बिहार की सारी मीटर गेज की गाड़ियां नाकामयाब हो चुकी हैं। इसलिए हम आग्रह करेंगे जनता जनार्दन की उत्तर बिहार में जो मांग है उस पर एक्शन ले, एक सप्ताह

समिति कायम हो गई है और उसके तत्वाधान में डेली हजारों लोग अरेस्ट हो रहे हैं ।

श्री उपसभापति: अरेस्ट होने से कुछ नहीं होगा ।

श्री राम भगत पासवान: इसलिए हम आग्रह करते कि सरकार उत्तर बिहार का जनता को फरियाद को सुन ले और इस लाइन का शीघ्र से शीघ्र निमाण करें ।

# REFERENCE TO THE PLIGHT OF FREEDOM-FIGHTERS DUE TO PROBLEMS IN GETTING PENSION FROM GOVERNMENT

SHRI M. KADHARSHA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir I would like to draw the attention of the House, and through you, Sir, of the hon. Home Minister to the miserable plight of freedom fighters in getting pension from the Government of India. Hundreds and thousands of applications are pending with the Government, and the Home Ministry has not cared to dispose them off earnestly. Some of the petitions are pending for the last two or three years. The rules and procedure are very rigid, with the result that many of them could not fulfil the formalities. Sir, the State Governments have their own rules, and the Government of India is following its own norms and procedures in giving pension to them. The living condition of many of the freedom fighters is so miserable. Recently we saw a report in the press of a freedom fighter begging in streets to eke out his living. If this is the condition of the freedom fighters, the very existence of our independence and democracy will be jeopardised. So I request that the Government should simplify the rules. For instance, the Government is demanding that the application should be endorsed by a co-prisoner. But most of them are dead now. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, there are only two persons who are eligible to give the endorsement certificate,

Secondly, the Government is demanding that the imprisonment certificates from the jail authorities should be produced. Unfortunately, many of the State Governments do not maintain such long records, of 40-50 years, and so the freedom fighters are denied the right to get their pension.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Co-prisoners, ex-MPs and MLAs can give the certificate. He must be a co-prisoner. (Interruptions).

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY (Wes. Bengal): Sir, 90,000 applications are pending in my State.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him have his say.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: I support him

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: For some persons the State Government is giving pension. But the same persons are rejected by the Central Government. I do not know the reason for that. A freedom fighter is a freedom fighter. If he is recognised by the State Government, he should also be recognised by the Union Government. So I wish that the rules be simplified, and the Government should be liberal and generous in giving pension to the freedom fighters. If today we sit in the ivory tower, it is because of the sweat and toil and blood they have shed.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: I support my friend. You are also a freedom fighter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know. They are very liberal.