

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA) in the Chair]

But, unfortunately, the orphanages are not given any Central assistance or grants. They have been left at the mercy of the State Governments, most of them are indebted and facing fund constraints. As a result, the unfortunate orphans have no alternative but to suffer.

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment gives Central grants to a number of NGOs, charitable institutions, etc. as a measure of welfare, but orphanages have not been included in its list for the release of Central grants. Hence, I demand from the Central Government to release adequate Central grants to all the orphanages in the country to improve the lot of orphans on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Thank you, Sir.

Demand for Early Completion of Four-laning of National Highway no. 44

SHRI MATIAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, it is learnt that the proposal for four-laning of the National Highway No. 44 has been taken up for studying its feasibility. But the fact of the matter is that this highway is the only road by which the State of Tripura is getting connected with the main land of the country. Besides this, it is the only road through which civil supplies are made available to the people of Tripura. The road, as it stands now, cannot even pride two lanes for the safe passage of the vehicles conveniently. That is why, jam of the vehicles has been a regular occurrence on the highway. During rainy season, the incidents of landslides are found to occur almost every year, causing dislocation of the transport system, as a whole, for days together. In this context, it is essential that the works of four-laning of the National Highway no. 44 should be taken up on a priority basis.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take up the programme of four-laning of this National Highway as early as possible in the interest of the entire State of Tripura and also a large part of the State of Assam in the perspective of national importance.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Shri Ramadhar Kashyap, not present. Dr. M.S. Gill.