

[SHRI S. THANGAVELU]

deserving students. Further, the allocation for education loan interest-subsidy scheme has been raised considerably, from Rs. 640 crores in 2011-12 to Rs. 800 crores. Even though the Government has introduced such a subsidy scheme to encourage students to go in for higher education, the number of beneficiaries from the weaker sections of society was very less. It was said that the number of students who benefited was nearly 22.8 lakhs in March, 2011; however, they were all provided loans on individual surety ground. Especially, the students who joined through the Management quota were disqualified from availing themselves of the education loan. Sir, education is an important component of economic development and a driving force for economic growth, ensuring opportunities for all.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to direct all nationalized and commercial banks to provide loans to students belonging to weaker sections of the society without any surety, as also to students who joined higher education through Management quotas and treat them on par with those who obtained seats on merit.

Demand for taking action to strengthen mobile network in border areas

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय, भारत की विशाल सीमा है और आये दिन उस सीमा पर पड़ोसियों से होने वाले विवाद की खबरें अखबारों के माध्यम से मिलती रहती हैं, पर यहाँ मैं जिस बात की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट कर रही हूँ वह देश के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में मोबाइल नेटवर्क (संचार व्यवस्था) के ठीक से काम न करने के बारे में है।

महोदय, हिन्दुस्तान की सीमा पाकिस्तान और चीन से बहुत लम्बी है और शरीर को पिघला देने वाली बर्फ, बर्फीले तूफान और जंगली जानवरों से युक्त उस दुर्गम व पहाड़ी जटिल क्षेत्रों की सुरक्षा में हमारे सैनिक रात-दिन कड़ी मेहनत और बड़ी मुस्तैदी से लगे हैं, पर इन सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में देश का संचार नेटवर्क ठीक से काम नहीं करता है। यह बात संसद की स्थायी समिति से लेकर स्थानीय लोगों और अन्य माध्यमों से पता चलती है। इस कारण से वहाँ स्थानीय नागरिकों के साथ-साथ वहाँ पर जाने के इच्छुक पर्यटक भी नहीं जाते हैं, जिससे स्थानीय लोगों के रोजगार पर कुप्रभाव पड़ता है और इससे अनेक समस्याएँ जन्म लेती हैं।

मैं यहाँ एक स्थान का उल्लेख करना चाहती हूँ। सिक्किम के नाथुला से तिब्बत होते हुए चीन से व्यापार करने का रास्ता है। वहाँ पर भारतीय संचार व्यवस्था अपनी जीर्ण-शीर्ण स्थिति में काम कर रही है। ऐसे स्थानों पर तैनात हमारे सैनिक अपने परिवार से जुड़े रहने में भी बाधा महसूस करते हैं, इसलिए वे सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों से जल्द से जल्द छुट्टी लेकर घर जाना चाहते हैं। जहाँ संचार की व्यवस्था ठीक न हो, वहाँ सूचनाओं के आदान-प्रदान में जो बाधाएँ आती हैं, उन्हें समझना कठिन नहीं है।

अतः मैं सदन से माँग करती हूँ कि देश के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में हमारी संचार व्यवस्था ठीक ढंग से काम करे, इसके लिए सरकार सभी आवश्यक कदम उठाए और यह सुनिश्चित करे कि सीमाओं पर संचार व्यवस्था में किसी प्रकार की बाधा उत्पन्न हो।

Concern over increase in railway freight adversely affecting the salt traders

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA (Gujarat) : Sir, Gujarat is the land of Gandhiji who started Dandi March for Salt Movement against the British. Today, the day has come to restart the same movement for the sake of common man. In today's

world, salt plays the most essential part in human body, whereas refined salt is essential for manufacturing units. As you are aware, Sir, an unprecedented, abnormal increase in railway freight has been made effective since 6.3.2012. The revised rates are on the exceptionally higher side and are detrimental to the interests of salt industry in Gujarat. They are adversely affected due to enhanced freight.

It is seen from the freight rates table that initially, per tonne charges for various classes are fixed for the distance of 25 and 50 kilometres. But, from 1000 to 1500 kilometres, it is fixed at 100 kilometres. In the subsequent block/slab, the distance is 250 kilometres up to 2000 kilometres and 500 kilometres for 2500 kilometres onwards.

It is our humble request that some reduction may kindly be made in the freight structure. Gujarat's salt manufacturers, who are meeting the country's major requirement of edible salt, are worst hit by this rise. The consumption of the refined salt has increased manifold. Even the State Government supply refined iodised salt to the poorest of the poor under the Public Distribution System and salt has virtually become an essential commodity.

As Railways grant concession in freight in respect of ordinary iodised salt, we request you to grant similar concession to refined salt also so that the industry can survive.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Now, Shrimati Renubala Pradhan, not here. Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

**Demand to take measures to ensure proper implementation of
national training policy**

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue before this august House.

The Training Division of the Department of Personnel and Training is responsible for Trainers' Development Programmes in the country. There are several instances of irregularities noticed in the implementation of this policy. The Training Division insists that a Certified Trainer, who is presently posted in a Ministry or Department of Central Government or State Government, should conduct a training programme as and when deployed by them. However, instead of taking action against the employers of Certified Trainers for not relieving these trainers to conduct deployed courses, it is taking action against these trainers.

Recently, the Training Division has withdrawn certification of five national resource persons who created an advanced level training package in collaboration with the University of Manchester, at the cost of the Government exchequer in which the employers of these trainers did not relieve them as and when deployed by the Training Division. Had these trainers' services been utilised, some more trainers could have been deployed by them. There is no definite strategy adopted for other training