

[Shri Kumar Deepak Das]

Nagaon (50.80 to 152.80 PPB), Baksa (51.70 to 194.80 PPB), Nalbari (50.10 to 817 PPB), Barpeta (51.10 to 356.20 PPB), Hailakandi (50 to 533 PPB), Jorhat (50.30 to 491.20 PPB), Karimganj (50.50 to 979 PPB), Cachar (50 to 748.50 PPB), Golaghat (51.10 to 996 PPB), Darrang (51 to 292.70 PPB), Bongaigaon (150.10 to 892 PPB), etc. This needs urgent revisit to the present system and vigilance for the use and supply of drinking water in the affected districts.

In the North-East Region, in Assam and Manipur, people living in flood plains of Brahmaputra and Imphal rivers have chronically been exposed to drinking contaminated hand tube-wells water above permissible limit of 50 ug/L. Many more North Eastern hill States in the flood plains are also suspected to have the possibility of arsenic in ground water.

Therefore, there is need for developing immediate and long-term strategies for comprehensive understanding of the above aspects and to address the problems. It is, therefore, demanded to take necessary steps to explore possibilities of tapping risk-free, deeper aquifers for supply of arsenic-free ground-water and increasing R&D activities to ensure sustainable solution along with capacity building and social empowerment.

**Demand for construction of a railway overbridge at
Pradhankhanta in Dhanbad Jharkhand**

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR (Jharkhand): Numerous problems are encountered by the people living in the cluster of over 200 big and small villages around Pradhankhanta village in Govindpur Tehsil, District Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Pradhankhanta village is located on the chord-line of the Railways on Delhi-Howrah route. Being one of the busiest lines of the Indian Railways, traffic on this line — both of goods and passenger trains — is heavy, if not incessant. The Howrah Rajdhani Express, the Sealdah Rajdhani Express, the Purna Express, to name a few, pass on the grand chord-line. Pradhankhanta has a railway level crossing gate which regulates movement of vehicular traffic, based on the trains passing by. The continuous movement of trains on the grand chord-line means that the level crossing is closed frequently in the course of the day. This involves untold hardship in the form of closure/stopping of traffic and vehicular congestion resulting in loss of valuable time for the locals living in the cluster of over 200 villages surrounding Pradhankhanta. The hardship faced by locals can be gauged by the fact that school buses do not operate in this area for the reason that there is every likelihood of buses remaining stuck at the level crossing for long durations

every time. To tide over the hardship, I would like to request the Railways to construct a railway overbridge at Pradhankhanta level crossing so that the people of these villages get relieved of the adversity being faced on account of continuous huge traffic congestion.

**Demand to restore Pali Literature as an optional subject
in Civil Services Mains Examination of UPSC**

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, Pali is an ancient language. It has its roots in India, grew and reached its zenith in India. It is taught in 50 universities in India at various levels. School Boards in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal are having Pali in their curriculum. Entire Buddhist literatures are in Pali language only.

Pali literature was offered as an optional subject since 33 years by the UPSC. Every year around 10,000 students are preparing with Pali literature as an optional subject. Around 400 students are appearing in the main examination every year; and success rate is between 7.5 to 8.5 per cent. After Hindi literature, Pali is the second language which is opted by many civil service aspirants; and there are 23 languages besides Hindi and Pali.

Dr. Ambedkar has contributed immensely to Pali and because of his efforts there is a separate Department of Pali in the Delhi University since 1954. Various universities in 28 countries are teaching Pali literature. Dr. Ambedkar wrote books on Pali grammar, Pali dictionary in English, Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi. The slogan "Dhamma Chakaa Pavattana" in the Ashok Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan and "Bahujan Hitay Bahujan Sukhay" in Akash Vani logo are in Pali.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that Pali language has been removed from the list of optional subjects for the UPSC main examination. I urge on the Government to revoke the decision taken by the UPSC. I also urge on the Government to introduce Pali in the school curriculum from the primary level onwards throughout India, and include it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Prabha Thakur; not there. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Vivek Gupta. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand to restore the facility of 'Certificate of Posting'
in Post Offices of the country**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, under the provisions of rule 195 of the Indian Post Office Rules 1933, the facility of 'certificate of posting' was granted