

As the State of Kerala does not have gas fields, it is eligible for a legitimate share of domestically produced gas. So, I urge the Government to allot due share of domestic gas to the State considering the federal set up of the country. Thank you.

**Demand for giving importance to best brains and minds  
while selecting candidates in the country**

PROF. JOGEN CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Sir, my request to the Government is that it should try to give importance to select candidates who are best brains and best minds of the country and for that matter, it should explore candidates from all parts of the country, even those who speak and write any of the Indian languages according to their preferences. The best solution is the three-language formula.

**Demand to celebrate Rashtra Kavi Pradeep's birth centenary**

SHRI AVINASH PANDE (Maharashtra): Sir, Kavi Pradeep, born Ramchandra Naryanji Dwivedi (6th February 1915 - 11 December 1998), is best known for the lyrics of his song "*Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon*" written as a tribute to the soldiers who had laid down their lives in the Sino-Indian War and was conferred the title of "Rashtra Kavi" by the Government. Shrimati Lata Mangeshkar's maiden rendition of Kavi Pradeep's immortal poetry at the National Stadium on 27th January 1963, famously moved our then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to tears. Our current Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji also commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the song with Shrimati Lata Mangeshkar last year, much before he became the Prime Minister.

The appeal of the undying patriotism of his poetry cuts across political parties and affiliations. His patriotism even drove him to forego all royalty received from the sales of "*Aye mere watan ..*" to the Defence Ministry as his contribution to the War Widow's Fund. His other songs, including "Door hato aye duniya walon ...", "Chal chal re naujawan ...", and "Aao bacchon tumhe dikhayein ... " earned him the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award in 1997 for a lifetime of contribution to the Indian cinema. This being the centenary year of Kavi Pradeep's birth, I request the Government to declare and commemorate 6th February as *Kavi Pradeep Divas* and introduce his works as literary reading in school curriculum, to inculcate the same patriotism in the new generations.

SHRI ANANDBHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the point made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with the point made by the hon. Member.

**Demand for running the Mumbai-Nagercoil Express train  
daily as a superfast train in the morning from Mumbai**

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to bring an important issue pertaining to the Tamil People living in Mumbai and adjoining areas. At present, the Mumbai-Nagercoil