

Need to close loss-making railways routes

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, रेलवे की 115 ऐसी लाइनें हैं। जिनसे प्रति वर्ष करोड़ों का घाटा होता है। रेलवे की अलाभकारी शाखा लाइन समिति ने वर्ष 2001-2002 में कहा था कि इन लाइनों के कारण 461 करोड़ से ज्यादा की हानि हो रही है। राज्यों के दबाव और विरोध के चलते वर्षों बाद भी इन्हें बंद नहीं किया जा सका है। इसके अलावा रेल सुधार समिति ने तो वर्ष 1983 में ही उन चालीस रेलवे लाइनों को बंद करने की सिफारिश की थी, जहां पर्याप्त वैकल्पिक सड़क परिवहन सुविधाएं पहले से ही उपलब्ध थीं। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि यदि घाटे में चलने वाली लाइनें बंद होती हैं तो बंद होने वाले रेल खंडों पर, परिवहन व्यवस्था, सड़क मार्ग के निर्माण और बसों आदि की खरीद के लिए रेलवे राज्य सरकारों को एक मुश्त आर्थिक सहायता देने की पेशकश कर सकती है, जिससे रेलवे को प्रति वर्ष करोड़ों के लगातार होने वाले घाटे से निजात मिल सके और राज्यों को अपनी परिवहन सेवाएं चुस्त, दुरुस्त करने में मदद मिल सके।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER**Regarding the Law and Order Situation in Manipur**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Shivraj Patil will now make a Statement on the law and order situation in Manipur.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I have three matters in this House today. One is relating to the situation in Manipur. Second is relating to what has happened in Assam and the third is, I am expected to reply to the debate on drought and floods. I do not know how....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: First we will hear the Statement on Manipur and then there will be some clarifications. Later on, we will take up the incident of bomb blast on Dhemajli district of Assam.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): You can take up Manipur and Assam together and flood and drought you can take it up after the discussion is over.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, no.....

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am expected to reply to the same kind of discussion in the Lok Sabha also today. I do not know how I am expected to manage these things. If the discussion on the two topics is going to require more time, probably we can take up the discussion on this topic

today and the other topic can be taken up....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will see how the discussion takes place.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yesterday the discussion continued and today I am expected to speak. Sir, I am making a Statement on Manipur.

Manipur is facing insurgency and militancy for many years. It is declared as a disturbed area. The Armed Forces Special (Powers) Act was used in the entire state. Some people in the state are agitating to see that the Armed Forces Special (Powers) Act is withdrawn. On 12th of August 2004, against the advice given by the Union Government, the State Government withdrew the Act from the city of Imphal and allowed it to remain in force in rest of the State. The State Government says that the Act did not meet the expectations of the people in the State. The agitation continued in a more forceful manner after the incident that had happened on 11th of July 2004 in which Kumari Th. Manorama Devi's body was found in a field, with bullet injuries on it. The allegation made in this respect is that she was killed by the Assam Rifles. The agitators are demanding that the Assam Rifles should be withdrawn from the area. The Armed Forces have started proceedings against those who are alleged to have been responsible for the incident. The State Government has also instituted a judicial inquiry into the matter. There has been no change in the situation even after the Act was withdrawn from the city of Imphal. The Union Government is watching the situation. It will take appropriate action to meet the situation.

The incident of bomb blast at Dhemaji district of Assam

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, a powerful bomb explosion took place at 08.50 Hrs. on 15th August, 2004 at the venue of the Independence Day function in the Dhemaji College ground, resulting the death of 13 persons (seven male and six female, including five school children) and injuries to few others. All the victims were spectators who had come to participate in the function. Critically injured persons have been shifted to the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the explosion was caused by an I.E.D. planted 40/50 meters from the rostrum near the