Demand for Railway over bridge at Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. A. KADAR (Tamil Nadu): Madam, in Tamil Nadu, Rameswaram is a holy place of Hindus. There is the Ramanathapuram city near Rameswaram which is the Headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district.

There is a railway gate in Ramanathapuram. Through this gate, nearly five hundred vehicles go to important places like Thirupullani Temple, Ervadi Dargah, Thiruchendur Murugan Temple and Cape Comerin daily and come back. At this juncture, daily trains come to Rameswaram and depart from Rameswaram to Madurai, Trichy, Manamaduri and Palakadu and Chennai. When the railway gate is closed for trains, there is a lot of traffic congestion due to autos, cars, vans and buses which pass through this gate. Moreover, students of various colleges at Kilakarai, also use this gate for to and fro journeys. The patients in and around Kilakarai and Ervadi, who need emergency treatment, are getting affected because of the closure of this railway gate. They do not get treatment on time.

Therefore, I request the Government to consider construction of a flyover on this railway gate. Thank you.

Plight of cashew nut processing industry and its workers

PROF M. SANKARALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): The cashew industry in India provides employment to more than five lakh workers, mainly women from the weaker sections of the society and earns Rs. 2,000 crores of foreign exchange annually by way of exports.

Due to falling international prices and server competition from the recent entrant Vietnam, the cashew export industry is in crisis. All the processing units and exporting firms are suffering from huge losses. Lakhs of workers are jobless for months together.

While such a situation calls for increased help and support from the Government, the imposition of import permit requirement for raw cashew nuts has added to the woes of the affected industry and its labourers. Realising employment generation and foreign exchange earning capacity of the industry, the Government should allow free import of raw cashew