

[22 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

कर यात्रा करनी पड़ती है जिससे उन्हें यात्रा के दौरान अत्यंत कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है एवम् आरक्षण हेतु वाराणसी, आजमगढ़ जैसे स्टेशनों पर जाना पड़ता है, जबकि जफराबाद जैसे महत्वहीन स्टेशन पर आरक्षण का कोटा है। शाहगंज स्टेशन पर भी 30 टिकट का आरक्षण कोटा स्वीकृत है। यह स्टेशन अब कम्प्यूटर चलित आरक्षण केन्द्र के रूप में कुछ ही दिनों में कार्य करना आरम्भ कर देगा। ऐसी दशा में वहां 30 टिकटों का आरक्षण कोटा समाप्त हो जाएगा जो कि सरायमीर के लिए स्थानान्तरित किया जा सकता है।

सरायमीर रेलवे स्टेशन हेतु कम से कम 30 टिकटों का आरक्षण कोटा निर्धारित करना बहुत ही आवश्यक है।

DEMAND FOR RAISING THE WATER LEVEL OF MULLAIPERIYAR DAM

SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the Press reports, the Kerala Government has enacted a new legislation titled "The Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation Act, 2003" on 14th August, 2003, paving the way to enact a special legislation in future for decommissioning of dams in the name of safety. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has been demanding for restoring the water level of Mullaiperiyar dam to 142 feet which was Brought down to 136 feet in 1979. The Central Government has fully endorsed the findings of the Expert Committee, which it has set up, that raising the water level of the Mullaiperiyar dam from 136 feet to 142 feet will not endanger the safety of the main dam. The Central Government has also assured the Kerala Government that strengthening measures will be adopted for the dam's safety, as suggested by the Central Water Commission. It is really unfortunate to know that the Kerala Government has enacted such a law in a situation where the issue has been hanging fire for a long time, and the step taken by the Kerala Government will further strain the process of arriving at a solution between the two States on water sharing.

In the circumstances, I would urge upon the Minister of Water Resources to kindly intervene in the matter and issue necessary directions to the Kerala Government to ensure the implementation of the Expert Committee's findings on raising the water level of Mullaiperiyar dam to 142 feet from the existing level immediately. Thank you.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL (Kerala): Sir, I strongly object to it.

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): You can't object to it. It is the reality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vearkey Mattathil, you can only associate yourself with it. You can't object to it.

**NEED TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR NATIONAL
HIGHWAY-52**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA(Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards exploring an alternative route for NH-52 from Narayanpur diversion in Lakhimpur district to Bogibeel bridge diversion in Dhemaji district of Assam. This will not only provide an alternate connectivity to this vulnerable portion of NH-52 which is breached and remain cut off for six months every year because of floods, but would also reduce the total length by at least 65 kilometres. Strategically, the area is highly sensitive, passing along the Chinese border. In this situation, having an alternate route deserves the highest priority of the nation. Besides, the suggested route will pass through a thickly populated area inhabited mostly by the Tribal, minority and backward communities *via* Bhipuria-Bongalmora-Laluk in one part and by passing Lakhimpur Town from Ronganadi diversion of NH-52 to Dhemaji *via* Dholghat-Ghagar-Ghunassute-Dhakuakhana-Machkhowa-Butikur in other part. Having several bridges on this route being already constructed and being processed under the World Bank schemes, this oldest route, if taken up with the NEC or the Department of North Eastern Region funding, will benefit both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh besides facilitating defence movement.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region to take up the survey of this route in the national interest. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is also requested to sanction the proposal of the Assam Government for improvement of part of this road from Narayanpur to Laluk *via* Bhipuria and from Lakhimpur to Ghagar under the Central Road Fund within the current financial year as a first step towards attaining such an important task ahead. Thank you.

SHRI INDRAMONI BORA (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

**NEED TO GIVE REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO THE FARMERS IN
THE COUNTRY**

श्री मुनव्वर हसन(उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, हमारे यहां का किसान बहुत बुरी हालत से गुजर रहा है। हमारे नए कृषि मंत्री जी आए हैं, उन्होंने किसानों के लिए बहुत प्रयास किए हैं लेकिन