

[Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan]

Government to issue necessary direction in the matter to the concerned authorities to carry out the expansion work at an early date. Nedumpasserry is the nearest palace which lies very close to Aluva which is known as the industrial town. FACT, TELC, TTC, Premier Tyres, Premier Cables, Travancore Rayons etc. are located very near to this area.

(III) **Need to ensure protection and conservation of the biological diversities in Mahendragiri, Orissa**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Sir, the Mahendragiri Hill System is one of the oldest ecosystems in the country. The terrain is the unique epitome of genetic species, aboriginal tribes, archaeological and historical monument. In its aura of wildlife, the system represents the transitional zone between the Northern Himalayan and Southern Peninsular System, providing an ideal niches for diverse genetic species. It is the natural habitat of varied wild animals like the elephant, leopard, tiger, hyena, wolf, bear, wild boar, spotted deer, antelope, etc. The elephant population is said to be around forty in number. Therefore, creation of an Elephant Sanctuary or a Reserve may be considered.

Out of the nine top hills in the Eastern Ghats, three are in this system. They are Singaraj (1516 m.), Mahendragiri (1501 m.) and Devagiri (1382 M.) These three hills form a golden triangle, so far as the ecological wealth is concerned. Many of the plants and animals find their place in the IUCN RED Data Book as 'Threatened', 'Endangered', 'Vulnerable' and 'Rare' species. Hence, it becomes imperative to provide a Biosphere Reserve in Mahendragiri-Singaraj-Devagiri system, for their regeneration to pre-historic status.

The Mahendragiri Forest System has its own district fauna and flora. Sal, the pride

of Orissa's vegetation, is fact getting depleted. Many of the species, which are endemic and also represent Himalayan and Peninsular elements, are on the wane.

13.39 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

In the fitness of things, a survey must be undertaken expeditiously on the flora and fauna of this Hill System in question.

I would, therefore, urge the Central Government to coordinate efforts with the State Government to ensure protection and conservation of the biological diversities in Mahendragiri's unique ecosystem, by declaring a Sanctuary/National Park/Elephant Reserve/Biosphere Reserve.

(III) **Need to re-open the Railway level Crossing near Pratapnagar Railway Station Baroda, Gujarat.**

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA (Baroda): Sir, I wish to bring to your kind notice that the people residing in Railway colony near Pratapnagar Railway station and Danteshwar are facing a great difficulty due to closure of the Railway level crossing.

The population of Danteshwar area is about 30,000. In Danteshwar village any housing societies are located and the people of the village are increasing day by day. The population of the area depends on Chokhandi and Mandavi and Khanderao Markets for purchasing their daily needs. Many schools and hospitals are located in R.V. Desai Road. With the closure of the level crossing, they have to go via fly-over bridge which is very step grade.

The State Transport have to take a long distance to reach Mandavi resulting in more fuel consumption, time-consuming and expensive too.

In view of this, I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to

reopen the Railway level crossing located near the Yogini hospital in Baroda.

- (iv) **Need to set up sugar mills of Nawabganj and Mirganj in Bareilly district, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter under Rule 377.

There has been a growing demand of setting up of sugar mills at Nawabganj and Miraganj in Bareilly district for the last many years. The main crop of the agriculturists of Bareilly district is sugar-cane. There is an annual production of 4 lakh quintals of sugar-cane in the district and the working sugar mills are procuring merely one lakh quintals of sugar-cane. Due to this the farmer of Bareilly continues to face financial burden. Many a time I wrote letters for setting up of sugar mills at the said places and the Uttar Pradesh Government has also recommended setting up of sugar mills at these places. I have been assured by the Central Government, on several occasions that a decision is going to be taken very soon. I urge the Central Government to make announcement of setting up of sugar mills at both these places very soon.

- (v) **Need to set up second channel of Doordarshan at Bhubaneswar Orissa**

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, the delay in completion of T.V. studio complex at Bhubaneswar has given rise to serious difficulties in production of suitable programmes. In view of the limited studio facilities in Doordarshan Kendra at Cuttack evening programme starts at 6.00 P.M. that is half an hour behind schedule. Equipments for the Bhubaneswar studio, which have already arrived, may be installed on priority basis so that production can be

started with the O.B. Van to be made available at Bhubaneswar. Orissa is the only State in the country where there is no All India Radio/Doordarshan Kendra in the State capital. It is, therefore, imperative that the second channel be set up at Bhubaneswar along with the provision of auxiliary T.V. studio at Sambalpur.

- (vi) **Need to develop Cuddalore port, Tamil Nadu, into a major port.**

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): Sir, Cuddalore Port which as a minor port is situated at Cuddalore, South Arcot District, Tamil Nadu, is more than hundred year old. It is an open roadstead port. It has railway siding facilities at the Wharf to facilitate transportations of cargo through Railways. Fertilizer, wheat, rice, cement, rice-bran, foldspar, onions, coal, rubber and general cargo are some of the important cargo handled at this port. It is situated at about 30 kilometres east of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

This port can be profitably used for the transport of coal to Mettur Thermal Station. If this port is developed and utilised for import of coal, coal can be transported by rail from Cuddalore to Mettur. The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board have formulated a detailed project report for establishing a Thermal power station at Cuddalore.

The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Bangalore, has proposed to set up in collaboration with the Steel Authority of India a Hot Briquette Iron Plant with an annual capacity of 0.75 million tonnes per annum at an investment of Rs. 546 crores at Cuddalore port. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to develop the Cuddalore minor port into a major port.

- (vii) **Need to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to protect the small traders.**

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): The small tradesmen