

consider this issue immediately and make provision of CGHS facilities to the retired Central Government Servants residing in and around Chandigarh and provide sufficient fund for this purpose.

(ii) Need to enforce strictly the provisions regarding equal wage for equal work particularly in case of women labour

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : Sir, inspite of having law for equal wage for equal work it is not been implemented in several areas. There is a difference prevails between the wages of male and female workers. According to a report of World Bank, the women in India get lesser emoluments than that of men. Even less attention is paid towards health and education of women labourers. Women labourers being illiterate are involved in more labour oriented work like carrying soil, working of furnaces in the factories etc. Infact women labourer work honestly so they must be paid higher wages. The difference in wages between male and female labourer is a deliberate act and this is a curse on the women labourers when we are knocking at the door of 21st century.

So, I request the Central Government to take immediate and concerte steps to implement the equal wages law effectvely. Those who violate the law should be punished stringently. The exploitation of women labourer should be checked so that they may lead an honourable life in the society.

(iii) Need to Develop Tezpur (Assam) and Areas around it as a National Tourism Project

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Sir, Tezpur is an enchanting mini-city of Assam situated on the bank of the mighty Brahmaputra. Surrounded as it is by be-witching beauties of nature in its unpolluted best and several historic and pre-historic locales of great archaeological interest, Tezpur has immense potential of being promoted and developed as one of the important tourist centres of India. The Agnigarh Hill, Maha Bhairava and Biswanath Temples, relics from the Mahabharata era, Kaziranga National Park, the only abode of the one-horned rhino in the word, Angling and Rafting Centre at Bhalukpung on Arunachal Border, the age-old Tawang monestery and the splendours of the Arunachal mountains, lush green tea plantation with golfing and club facilities and many other irresistible tourist attractions are within very short distances from Tezpur.

If these places are developed commercially as recognised tourist centres with the requisite Hotel and transportation infrastructure in and around Tazpur, it is bound to attract Indian and foreign tourists in large numbers. The Unique Selling Proposition of the Tezpur Tourism package would be the enjoyment of perfect ecologicl purity

in the natural habitat of flora and fauna not found anywhere else in the world.

Being a service industry, the proposed tourism complex will go a long way in alleviating poverty and unemployment in the backward region totally untouched so far by industrialisation and even liberalisation.

I would, therefore urge upon the Ministry of Tourism to take immediate steps to promote and develop the great tourism potential of the areas in and around Tezpur on both sides of the Assam-Arunachal border as a National Tourism Project under the Central Government.

(iv) Need to Introduce Crop Insurance Scheme for the Farmers of Andhra Pradesh

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Sir, recent hailstorm has caused maximum damge to the standing crops in several Telangana districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Nalgonda, Mahboobnagar, Ranga Reddy, etc. inflicting a loss of Rs. 60 crore approximately. In Nalgonda alone, 30,000 acres of crops are damaged where the farmers have lost their fortune. The loss is estimated to be more than Rs. 307 crore in Nalgonda district to which I belong. The State Government is giving Rs. 250 per acre only in the villages where 75 per cent and more crops are damaged. Paying Rs. 250 per acre against the loss of Rs. 10,000 per acre is just nothing. Crop insurance has to be introduced taking the village as a unit. Otherwise, the farming community will be ruined. I request the Union Government to look into the matter early.

(v) Need to provide adequate catering facilities at Coimbatore railway station

*SHRI M. RAMANATHAN (Coimbatore) : Sir, Coimbatore city, which is also considered the Manchester of the South, is a considerably big industrial city. Coimbatore junction is also an important junction in the Southern Railway. About 85 trains - both express and passenger trains - pass through this junction daily and that to both on broad-gauge and metre-gauge lines.

Coimbatore junction links Cochin, Mangalore, Trivandrum, Kanyakumari in the South, Palani, Dindigul, Madurai, Rameshwaram, Tuticorin, Virudhunagar, Shencottach in the metre-gauge line, Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai, Ahmedabad in the North Erode, Salem, Madras and Tiruchy in the borad-gauge line. Thus, Coimbatore Junction operates as a round-the-clock mail junction.

Such a railway junction with a continuous flow of passenger trains does not have proper catering facilities for the past many months now. It is said that the contractors approved by the railways are not running the restaurants. It is pitiable to see passengers running here and there to get food in an important railway junction like Coimbatore.

* Translation of his speech originally delivered in Tamil.