

[English]

(vi) Need to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Madurai, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Sir, Doordarshan plays a vital part in communicating information, knowledge to all parts of the national particularly in rural areas. It has become a powerful entertainment media for the common man. Hence, the number of viewers is increasing day by day. There should be the creation of additional Doordarshan Kendras to meet the demand and to prepare quality programmes in regional languages.

Unfortunately, in Tamil Nadu where the viewership is very high, there is only one Kendra in Chennai which is not able to meet the growing demand of quality programmes.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to set up an additional Kendra at Madurai, which is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu with high cultural, historical and religious background, and also one at Coimbatore to cater to the needs of the Western parts of Tamil Nadu.

At present, there is only one Tamil News Bulletin which is telecast. I request that this should be increased to three per day.

(vii) Need to desilt rivers of eastern U.P.

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the river of Ganga flows through Allahabad, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Gazipur and Balia - district of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, the Gomti river flows through Sultanpur and Jaunpur, the Ghagara river through Faizabad, Gonda, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur and Devaria and Rapti, Badi Gandak and Choti Gandak flows through Gorakpur-Dewaria. In the summer season, the flow of all the river goes down substantially and the water left in the rivers is not safe for drinking. The pollution experts have held that the Ganga water at Kashi is not safe for drinking. Due to slowing down of the flow in these rivers, the very existence of these rivers is in the danger. The silt is piling up at the river bed and the sand area is expanding causing danger of floods, as the water flowing capacity of these rivers is decreasing. The decreasing water level in the rivers is leading to irrigation crisis. More than 400 crore rupees have been spent to clean the pollution of the Ganga river alone. Still there is no improvement. I would like to invite the attention of the Union Government to these serious issue and demand that the desilting operation should be carried out in Ganga, Gomati, Ghagra, Rapti, Badi Gandak, Choti Gandak rivers was to save them from extinction and the local unemployed people should be provided employment in this work.

[English]

(viii) Need to take over ancient temples in Dhankanal Parliamentary Constituency in Orissa for their proper protection and conservation.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : A large number of ancient monuments and temples are lying in the State of Orissa in a dilapidated condition. Out of them the following temples are located in Dhenkanal constituency :

1. Kapileswar Mahadev Temple, Hatuari, Kamakhyanagar Sub-Division.
2. Chandrasekhar Jew, Kapilash, Sadar Sub-Division.
3. Annakoteswara, Latedeipur, Sadar Sub-Division.
4. Astha Sambhu Temples, Kualo, Kamakhyanagar Sub-Division.
5. Rock Cut Ananthasayan-Vishnu on river Brahmani Bed, Kamakhyanagar Sub-Division.

These temples are neither being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India nor the State Archaeological Department. I have been following the matter with the State as well as the Central Government since 1993. In the meantime, a 'No Objection Certificate' has been issued by the State Government to the ASI for the transfer of these five temples. But the ASI has been making inordinate delay in taking over these temples. As the protection of these temples is very necessary, these temples should be taken over by the ASI at an early date. I urge upon the Central Government to take action in the matter without any further delay and immediate steps should be taken to allocate funds in 1997-98 financial year for the proper conservation of these five temples of Dhenkanal.

14.19 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET — GENERAL DISCUSSION, 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS), 1997-98

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS — RAILWAYS, 1994-95

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS — RAILWAYS 1996-97 — Contd.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to make a request that as many as 50 Members have given their names