

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF TOURISM



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2006/Sravana, 1928 (*Saka*)

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MINISTRY OF TOURISM

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 23.08.2006)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

August, 2006/Sravana, 1928 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Shri Prabhunath Singh — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Raj Babbar
3. Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan
4. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
5. Shri M. Jagannath
6. Shri Jitin Prasad
7. Shri Baliram Kashyap
8. Adv. Suresh Kurup
9. Smt. Nivedita Mane
10. Mohd. Muqueem
11. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
12. Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia
13. Shri Damodar Barku Shingada
14. Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava
15. Shri Vijoy Krishna

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Shri P. Sreedharan | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri A.K. Singh | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |
| 4. Shri V.P. Gupta | — | <i>Committee Officer</i> |

EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS
(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Eighteenth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee to the House on the representation regarding promotion of tourism in Bihar particularly at Gautam Sthan.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Eighteenth Report at their sitting held on 22nd August, 2006.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
22 August, 2006

31 Sravana, 1928 (Saka)

PRABHUNATH SINGH,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

REPORT

REPRESENTATION REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BIHAR PARTICULARLY AT GAUTAM STHAN

1. Shri Raghunath Jha, MP forwarded a representation on 20th August, 2004, signed by Shri Brijesh Kumar, Village Kamalpur *via* Pungsiya, District Banka (Bihar) and others regarding long delay in starting development work at Gautam Sthan, Bihar.

2. In the representation, the petitioners *inter-alia* stated that the Central Government keeping in view the historical importance of the State of Bihar, four years ago, accorded sanction to develop several places as tourist centres which included Gautam Sthan in District Saran in Bihar. This site has been named after Rishi Gautam. The historical importance of Gautam Sthan is one among the glorious site seeing places of Bihar. After sanction by Central Government only one instalment of the fund has been released for the development of Gautam Sthan, but no work has been done at Gautam Sthan during the last four years.

3. The petitioners, therefore, requested that the cause of delay in carrying out the development work at Gautam Sthan may be investigated and efforts may be made to develop this historical place at the earliest.

4. The Committee took up the matter in accordance with Direction 95 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha the representation was forwarded to the Ministry of Tourism on 25th August, 2004 for furnishing their comments on the points raised therein.

5. In response, the Ministry of Tourism *vide* their communication dated 26th October, 2004 furnished the following comments: —

“As a matter of policy, development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides financial assistance as per the existing schemes for projects identified in consultation with them. So far, no such proposal has been received from the State Government”.

6. The State Government of Bihar *vide* their communication dated 8th January, 2005 have furnished the following status report on the matter: —

“To attract tourism both domestic and foreign, the Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar develops its tourism spots. Besides State Government funds, it also tries to execute projects/schemes with the financial assistance of Government of India. In this context every year some proposals of developmental projects are sent by the State Government to Government of India for financial assistance.

A project called wayside facility at Rivilganj (Chhapra) was also cleared by the Government of India. This project is near Gautam Rishi Ashram, Godra (Chhapra) also called Gautam Sthan. This scheme was cleared by Government of India at the cost of Rs. 41.140 Lakhs and a sum of Rs. 5.860 Lakhs was released by Government of India as first instalment.

For the execution of this project, site was inspected by the Chief Engineer, Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation and as per his report the spot where land was being proposed by the local Revenue officials was not fit for the project. Moreover, the title of this land is disputed. Hence, an alternative site was needed.

In this regard, a meeting was held at the District Headquarters at Chhapra on 19.06.04 and an alternative land was selected in Chhapra on Siwan-Patna Highway near Balika Vidyalaya. To get this land transferred in the name of Department of Tourism, legal formalities are being completed as soon as the selected land is transferred to Tourism Department, the project work will be started.

The Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar has prepared a 20 years perspective plan in which wayside facility at Rivilganj (Chhapra) has been considered but it occupies low priority on the priority list of schemes.

So far the projects in and around the birth place of Lord Buddha is concerned, it is submitted in this regard that places related to Buddha are being developed through a circuit approach. All aspects of developments are being considered in Buddha Circuit which can be visualized by perusing the scheme list of Bodhgaya, Rajgir and Vaishali. Besides this other places of Buddha circuit in Bihar are also being considered to be taken in next phase, they are Lauriya, Nandangarh, Areraj, Kesaria and others.”

7. The Committee, thereafter, took oral evidence of the representatives of the State Government of Bihar on 15th June, 2005.

8. During the course of evidence, the representative of the State Government of Bihar explained about the latest position in the matter as under: —

“This scheme was approved in the year 2000-2001 with the sanctioned amount of Rs. 41.40 Lakh. Government of India has provided first instalment of Rs. 5.860 Lakh to the Government of Bihar. Collector in its report regarding land stated that the land which belongs to the Rivilganj Municipal Corporation is available and tourism information centre could be constructed on that land and hence the scheme was prepared accordingly and presented to the Government of India by the Government of Bihar. When we started process to acquire the land just then we came to know that we will not be getting the land. In this regard, the Collector informed that the matter has been forwarded to the Revenue Department and in their reply they stated that as the land belongs to the Municipal Corporation hence their approval is necessary to acquire the land and without their approval we will not get the land. We all were concerned and hence we have forwarded the matter to the Chief Engineer, Tourism Development Corporation with the request that our priority is Rivilganj for the purpose because

the land is very beautiful and if that land is not available only then the options must be found. We were informed that there is Sanskrit school and temple constructed on that land and the total land that we required is not available and after that we started to look for other places. One option was to provide public toilet at the Gazipur-Hazipur road. In this process we have selected a land near girl's school in the Chhapra City. We have not get that land easily and we have sent the proposal for more land to the department.”

9. The Committee pointed out that Gautam Sthan is an important holy place and there is a need to develop this place and as an alternative of the place, a school of Chhapra city will not serve the purpose. At this, the representative of the State Government of Bihar stated as under: —

“I want to make a suggestion. Gautam Sthan is a very important site. The scheme is very minor. The scheme should be prepared for the development of all the temples and ghats. A scheme should be prepared for the overall development of all the sites of Rivilganj, Buxar, Sultanganj, Pulloura, Sitamadi of Bihar, special attention should be given towards religious places. I would like to request through the committee that a scheme should be prepared for the overall development of Gautam Sthan. I will assist in preparing the scheme. We will send draft of such scheme to the tourism department and urge the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India to kindly support us for the overall development of that place. In my view its not a big task.”

The witness further added that: —

“I had visited Chhapra and discussed with Commissioner. I had tried my best to made everything available but when we did not find appropriate place then we moved this side for an option. But it does not mean that we have left that place totally. Now, I will once again try for the same.”

10. The Committee pointed out that on the bank of Saryu river where Gautam Rishi lived, there was land available for the purpose. At this the witness stated us under: —

“It's a scheme for the road side amenities. It should be done on National Highways only and hence it is the first condition of the scheme. Sir As you said we will try our level best to implement such scheme.”

11. When the Committee desired to take action to get land with the intention of approval of this scheme and not to execute this scheme at another place, the witness stated as under: —

“Again efforts will be made to acquire the land there. As you are saying that another scheme can be started at Chhapra.”

12. The Committee, thereafter, took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tourism on 10th April, 2006.

13. During the evidence the Committee wanted to know about the status of resources made available to State Government of Bihar by Central Government for

developemnt of Gautam Sthan and also whether the funds were being utilised or not by Government of Bihar. Replying to this, the representative of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture stated as under: —

“As Gautam Sthan is concerned, we have not received any proposal in this regard but in 2000-01 we got information about Gautam Sthan in Reveelganj, that we have sanctioned Rs. 19.55 lakh for wayside Amenity Centre. Earlier we had released Rupees 5.86 lakh but later when we reviewed this project then it was found that this project is not being implemented properly. When we asked Bihar Government about the reason, we were informed that there is a problem of land. Land is not available there to establish way side amenity centre. Therefore, due to non-availability of land this proposal may be cancelled and the funds may be diverted for any other project. The funds released by us is for wayside. There is no mention about Gautam Sthan in Reveelganj.”

14. When the Committee pointed out that there was a temple of Gautam Rishi at Gautam Sthan in Reveelganj, therefore, the Gautam Sthan was in Reveelganj, at this the witness stated: —

“Let me clear the situation regarding Reveelganj that a project was sanctioned for that place. Now, when we contacted Government of Bihar, they informed us that they are preparing a Comprehensive Project Report because Rupees Five crore has been sanctioned for destination and circle development and project report is being prepared for that. When we decide anything for the current year, Secretary, Government of Bihar is always consulted to decide priorities of different projects.

The projects of the year 2006-2007 are being prioritised. They are preparing projects and later on they will send it to us. When they will send it then we will study about the projects related to the tourism promotion and thereafter we will give information to you. Our Minister and Officers are going to visit Vaishali, Nalanda, Raigir and Bodh Gaya circuit of Bihar today by Rajdhani Express. They will have a discussion with Chief Minister also. He wants to prepare a big project for that circuit. Even Government of India also wants to make Bodh Gaya a holy place like Macca. Minister is going there, Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Shrivastha are very important places. We have released Rupees 19 crores during the year 2004-2005 and Rs. 12 crores during the year 2005-2006 for this circuit. Lots of funds have been released for integrated developement of Kanvaria Road for Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda and also for other works in rest of the areas. We are not satisfied with the implementation work of Government of Bihar as per our experience. Therefore, we have handed over all the projects to CPWD and works are being executed through this agency.”

15. The Committee pointed out that where there was a scope for development of tourist places in Bihar, the Central Government should prepare the projects for such places either those were religious places or places with natural beauty. The Committee asked as to whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture have made any correspondence with Bihar Government to select such places? At this the witness responded as under: —

“The Secretary, Government of Bihar Mr. Tiwari has visited here last year as well as this year. We have a system that every year we select places for which Government of India will sanction funds and for the said purpose our joint Secretary, Officers of State Government and our Director, all together discuss the important places international and national point of view to select the important places. We do it to made the planning of State Government more effective Buddhist circuit in Bihar is important for us it is also important from international and national point of view we are in the process of sanctioning Rupees 50 crores for this circuit. We will send HUDCO and ITDC to prepare an integrated plan for it. We do not want to leave it on State Government only we know that State Government neither have resources nor capable to do this work. All the projects are funded by Central Government rupees 31 crores have been released for the development of that area.”

16. As regards development of Sonpur in Bihar, which is not only a historical place but also a religious place and a largest fare of Asia was organised there, the representative of the Ministry informed that: —

“Perhaps they are also organising a fare in Sonpur. We have funds for infrastructure development as well as for fares and festivals. We give Rupees 15 lakhs for national level festival and we also give Rupees 5 lakh each for two festivals. We have also released funds for Sonpur. We are aware of Sonpur festival and assist it also.”

Observations/Recommendations

17. In the case under examination, the petitioners have submitted that there has been an inordinate delay in starting development work at Gautam Sthan, Bihar despite the sanction accorded by the Central Government nearly 4 years back to develop several places as tourist centres which included the Gautam Sthan, Distt. Saran in Bihar. It has been stated that though one installment of the funds sanctioned by the Central Government has been released, no work has been done so far. The petitioners have, therefore, requested that the cause of delay in carrying out the development work in Gautam Sthan may be investigated and efforts may be made to develop this historical place at the earliest.

18. Responding to the representation, the Department of Tourism submitted that as a matter of policy development of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The Department of Tourism, Government of India however, provides financial assistance as per the existing schemes for projects identified in consultation with them. In their submission to the Committee, the State Government of Bihar stated that to attract tourism both domestic and foreign, the Department of

Tourist, Government of Bihar develops its tourism spots. Besides the funds provided by the State Government, it also tries to execute projects/schemes with the financial assistance of Government of India on the basis of proposals of developmental projects every year. Accordingly, a project called wayside facility at Rivilganj, Chhapra near Gautam Rishi Ashram, Godra, also called Gautam Sthan, was cleared by Government of India in the year 2000-2001 at a cost of Rs. 41.40 lakh and a sum of Rs. 5.860 lakhs was released as first installment. The Committee have been informed that for the execution of this project, the land identified by local revenue officials was not considered suitable and accordingly an alternative site on Siwan Patna Highway near Balika Vidyalaya has been selected and as soon as the land is transferred to the tourism department, project work would commence. The Committee have also been informed that the Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar has prepared a 20 years perspective plan in which wayside facility at Rivilganj, Chhapra has been proposed but it occupies low priority on the list of schemes. From the facts stated above, the Committee regret to conclude that the project launched ostensibly to develop a tourist place of such importance is yet to take off even after a period of six years. This Committee cannot but express their serious displeasure over the same.

19. The Committee need hardly point out that the project involved immense tourism potential being the Karmabhoomi of Maha Rishi Gautam popularly known as Gautam Sthan on the bank of River Saryu. Gautam Sthan is a very important holy place apart from being a site of huge fair every year with several ancient temples in its vicinity. In the circumstances, the Committee consider it unfortunate that the Government of Bihar have relegated this project to a very lower order in priority and the scheme now proposed is very minor being a scheme for the road side amenities on National Highways only. This is not at all befitting the importance of the place, and of little use for the integrated development of the area.

20. The Committee strongly deprecate the manner in which both the Ministry of Tourism and the State Government of Bihar have proceeded with the matter and failed to implement a minor scheme with limited objectives and meager allocation even after the lapse of a considerable length of time after sanction. The Committee are astonished to find that the State Government of Bihar have utterly failed in their responsibilities for identifying a suitable land for the scheme thus far. The Committee are also surprised at the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry of Tourism which after sanctioning the scheme with truncated objectives and half hearted attempt for the development of Gautam Sthan, have failed to monitor the progress thereof and are oblivious of the fact that land for the scheme is yet to be transferred to the Department of Tourism.

21. The Committee were informed that there was no dearth of land for the integrated development of the Gautam Sthan and wayside amenities therefor, but no sincere efforts were made by the officials of the State Government of Bihar and Ministry of Tourism. It has been pointed out that the huge tract of land on Gajipur-Hajipur National Highway in the Rivilganj block for wayside amenities and the land belonging to Majhi's in Chhapra, is suitable for the entire

project. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Tourism in active cooperation with State Government of Bihar should atleast now expedite the execution of the project in a time bound manner. The Committee hope that the scheme would be suitably enlarged to include composite development of all the temples and ghats in the vicinity of Gautam Sthan with appropriate integration with important tourist places in Rivilganj, Buxar, Sultanganj, Pulloura, Sitamadi etc.

22. The Committee also note that Sonapur, Bihar a historical and religious place and site of largest fare of Asia urgently needs improvement in infrastructure and other amenities. The Committee desire the Ministry should consider chalking out a special plan for Sonapur and provide adequate financial assistance for the purpose.

23. The Committee note that Buddhist circuit in Bihar has remained cynosure of Tourism in Bihar due to its importance from national and international point of view and Ministry of Tourism is in the process of sanctioning Rs. 50 Crores for the Circuit. The Committee consider it as a step in right direction and welcomes the same. They hope that the allocated funds would be fully utilized for all round development of Kavaria road for Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda and also for other works in rest of the area. The Committee desire that the improvement works in Kesaria and Pawapuri and Shravasti in Budhist circuit and Thabe in Gopalganj should be implemented expeditiously. The Committee further desire that the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with State Government of Bihar should chalk out suitable plan for places like Baikathpur Mahadev Sthan, Birth place of Guru Govind Singh, Chhoti Patan Devi, Badi Patan Devi and Kumhrar in Patna District to bring them on the tourist map and provide wayside amenities on these places considering their religious and historical significance. The Committee also desire that the Ministry and Government of Bihar should study the feasibility of appropriate linkages of smaller tourist and religious places with Budhist and Jainism Circuits for harnessing the immense Tourism potential of the State of Bihar.

NEW DELHI;
22 August, 2006

31 Sravana, 1928 (Saka)

PRABHUNATH SINGH,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PETITIONS (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Wednesday, 15th June, 2005 from 1200 to 1305 hrs.
in Committee Room No. 63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prabhunath Singh — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
3. Shri Suresh Kurup
4. Mohd. Muqueem
5. Shri Vijoy Krishna

SECRETARIAT

Shri Brahm Dutt — *Director*

WITNESSES

Representatives of the State Government of Bihar

1. Shri R.S. Tiwary — Commissioner & Secretary,
Tourism Department
2. Shri Navin Verma — Secretary, Human Resources
(Secondary Education) Department
3. Shri K.D. Sinha — Agricultural Production
Commissioner
4. Shri R.P. Singh — Director, Agriculture
5. Shri Daya Kant Mishra — Joint Secretary,
Department of Revenue

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the State Government of Bihar and drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding confidentiality of the proceedings.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the State Government of Bihar on (i) Representation regarding long delay in starting development work at Gautam Sthan, Bihar; (ii) Representation regarding delay in Constructing

building for Kendriya Vidyalaya Mashrak; and (iii) Representation requesting to enquire about the delay in opening up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Jalalpur, Bihar.

4. The following important points were discussed by the Committee:—

- (i) The procedure adopted by the State Government of Bihar for selection of site for the Development Work in Gautam Sthan in Bihar and to identify and expedite allotment of land for development work at Gautam Sthan in Bihar;
- (ii) The representatives of the Government of Bihar informed that the land for construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Mashrak has been allotted on lease for 30 years by the Government of Bihar. They also informed that the Government of Bihar has decided in March, 2005 that as a policy decision the Government of Bihar would give land free of cost to other sanctioned Kendriya Vidyalayas in a time bound manner.
- (iii) Reasons for delay in giving of land at Manjhi farms to Rajendra Krishi Vidyalaya for setting up a K.V.K.

5. The Committee directed the witnesses to send written replies to some of the points/information on which replies were not readily available with them during the evidence, at the earliest.

6. The Committee also decided that a communication may go to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar for early action in regard to Gautam Sthan and KVK at Manjhi.

7. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee was kept on record.

The witness then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PETITIONS (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Monday, 10th April, 2006 from 1400 hrs. to
1640 hrs. in Committee Room No. 53, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prabhunath Singh — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Raj Babbar
3. Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan
4. Dr. M. Jagannath
5. Mohd. Muqueem
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh — *Director*
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Under Secretary*

WITNESSES

*Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture
(Department of Agricultural Research & Education)*

1. Dr. Mangala Rai — *Secretary*
2. Smt. Sushama Nath — *Additional Secretary
(DARE) & Secretary (ICAR)*
3. Dr. P. Das — *Deputy Director General,
(Agriculture Extension)*
4. Dr. R. Prashad — *Assistant Director General,
(Agriculture Extension)*

*Ministry of Human Resource Development
(Department of Secondary & Higher Education)*

1. Shri K.M. Acharya — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri S.C. Khuntia — *Joint Secretary*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 3. Shri Kamal Chowdhery | — | Director
Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan
(KVS) |
| 1. Shri R.L. Jamuda | — | Commissioner |
| 2. Shri Rajvir Singh | — | Deputy Commissioner (Pers.) |

Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Shri L.K. Joshi | — | Secretary |
| 2. Shri Indu Prakash | — | Director General,
Ministry of Road Transport &
Highways |
| 3. Shri V.K. Sinha | — | Additional Director General-II |
| 4. Shri Arun Kumar Sharma | — | Chief Engineer (P-3) |
| 5. Shri V.L. Patankar | — | Superintending Engineer (P-3) |

National Highways Authority of India

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. Shri Santosh Nautiyal | — | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Nirmal Jit Singh | — | Member (Technical) |
| 3. Shri Mahesh Kumar | — | CGM |
| 4. Shri B.N. Singh | — | CGM |

Government of Bihar, Road Construction Department, Bihar

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Shri R.K. Singh | — | Secretary |
| 2. Shri Sheo Darshan Ram | — | Chief Engineer,
(National Highways) |

*Representatives of Ministry of Tourism & Culture
(Department of Tourism)*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri A.K. Mishra | — | Secretary (T) |
| 2. Shri Amitabh Kant | — | Joint Secretary (T) |
| 3. Shri V.K. Bajaj | — | ADG |
| 4. Shri Atul Chaturvedi | — | Director (T) |
| 5. Smt. Leena Nandan | — | Director (T) |
| 6. Shri Gajender Kumar | — | Asstt. DG |
| 7. Shri Naresh Kumar | — | Under Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of Ministry of Tourism & Culture (Department of Tourism) and drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding confidentiality of the proceedings. The Chairman also drew attention to Direction 95 which clearly stipulates that the Committee shall also meet as often as necessary to consider representations, letters, telegrams from various individuals, associations etc. which are not covered by the rules relating to petitions and give directions for their disposals.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Tourism & Culture on the representation regarding long delay in starting development work at Gautam Sthan, Bihar.

4. The following important points were discussed by the Committee:—

- (i) details about the allotment and selection of land/site for development of Gautam Sthan;
- (ii) allocation of funds for development of tourist places/holy places in Bihar; and
- (iii) efforts being made for early allotment of land/site for development of Gautam Sthan.

5. The representatives of the Ministry of Tourism & Culture then withdrew and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) took their seats.

6. Thereafter, the Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture on the representation requesting to enquire about the delay in opening up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Jalalpur, Bihar.

7. The following important points were discussed by the Committee:—

- (i) details of the latest factual position in regard to opening of KVK at Jalalpur;
- (ii) latest position regarding transfer of land for setting up of KVK at Manjhi;
- (iii) reasons for sanction of KVK to a NGO at Khagaria;
- (iv) latest progress made in setting up of KVKs at Saupaul (Pipra), Kakhisarai (Halsi), Araria, Aurangabad (Siris), Jehanabad (Makhdumpur), Buxar district, Gopalganj, Arwal etc.; and
- (v) details of guidelines/criteria being followed for opening a KVK at a particular place/States;

8. The representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture then withdrew and representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education) took their seats.

9. Thereafter, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary & Higher Education) on

the representation regarding delay in construction of building for Kendriya Vidyalayas at Mashrak.

10. The following points were discussed by the Committee:—

- (i) transfer of land to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan by the State Government of Bihar for construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Mashrak;
- (ii) sanction of funds for construction of the Kendriya Vidyalaya;
- (iii) expected time to be taken for completion of all the formalities regarding construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya; and
- (iv) details about grant of permission for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas and allotment of land for these schools in Bihar.

11. The representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development then withdrew and the representatives of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, National Highways Authority of India and Government of Bihar, Road Construction Department, Bihar took their seats.

12. Thereafter, the Committee took the evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to enquire into delay in construction of National Highways in Bihar and on representation from Shri Dharmendra Kumar Singh regarding delay in construction of sanctioned paths under NHDP-3 Yojana.

13. The Committee enquired about the reasons for poor condition of roads in Bihar.

14. The following points were discussed:—

- (i) allocation of funds for repairs, upgradation and maintenance of National Highways;
- (ii) funds allocated and spent on National Highways;
- (iii) contractors indulging in delaying tactics;
- (iv) upgradation of roads from four lane to six lane;
- (v) criteria adopted for placing 890 km roads in Bihar under B-category and efforts to place Patna-Bakhtawarpur-Muzaffarpur road in 3-A category;
- (vi) allocation of funds as per demand of the State;
- (vii) review of progress of work and allocation of funds based on performance; and
- (viii) tenders for the projects for which DPR had already been prepared.

The witnesses then withdrew.

15. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee was kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-THIRD SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PETITIONS (FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

Committee on Petitions sat on Tuesday, 22nd August, 2006 from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs.
in Chairman Room No. 45-II, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prabhunath Singh — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Adv. Suresh Kurup
3. Smt. Nivedita Mane
4. Mohd. Muqeem
5. Shri Damodar Barku Shingda
6. Shri Vijoy Krishna

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A.K. Singh — *Director*
2. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset, the Committee considered and adopted the Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports with certain amendments as shown in the Appendix-I.

3. The Committee also authorized the Chairman to finalise and present the Reports to the House.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-I

(See Para-2 of Minutes dated 22 August, 2006)

(A) AMENDMENT MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS IN THE DRAFT SEVENTEENTH REPORT

- (i) Page 29, Para 3.23, Line 5 from bottom
Delete — the word 'minority'
- (ii) Page 32, Para 3.28, Line 5 from bottom
Delete — 'particularly by the same yardstick as the riots of 1984'
- (iii) Page 32, Para 3.28, Lines 2-3 from bottom
For — 'or at least lessen the burden of'
Substitute — 'the'

(B) AMENDMENT MADE BY THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS IN THE DRAFT EIGHTEENTH REPORT

- (i) Insert before the last sentence of the para 23 on page 10 as under:—

"The Committee further desire that the Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with State Government of Bihar should chalk out suitable plan for places like Baikathpur Mahadev Sthan, Birth place of Guru Govind Singh, Chhoti Patan Devi, Badi Patan Devi and Kumhrar in Patna District to bring them on the tourist map and provide wayside amenities on these places considering their religious and historical significance."