

Title: Need to declare the temple of Vithal Rakumai in Solapur district of Maharashtra as a pilgrimage centre and allocate adequate funds for its development- Laid.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : This is in connection with the development of pilgrimage centre in my Parliamentary Constituency – Pandharpur (Maharashtra). Pandharpur, in the Solapur district of Maharashtra, is situated in a quite place in the laps of River Chandra Bhag with Temple Vithal Rakumai situated nearby.

The temple Vithal Rakumai is being visited by lakhs of pilgrims from India and abroad. However, these pilgrims face lot of difficulties due to lack of proper arrangement for accommodation, sanitation etc. Development of this place as pilgrimage centre will benefit both the pilgrims as well as the revenue earnings of the Government.

However, it is learnt that the Pandharpur is not in the pilgrimages list of Central Government and hence there is no authority to take care of the needs of pilgrims. Hence, it is requested that necessary steps may be taken so as that Pandharpur is listed in the Pilgrimage Centre list of Central Government with allocation of an amount of Rs.50 crores for the development of this pilgrimage centre, in the public interest.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will hear you one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Sir, this is not the 'Zero Hour.' We should start the Business of the House. ...(Interruptions) We have already discussed the Gujarat situation. ...(Interruptions) If they want to discuss Gujarat, let us discuss the case of Afroz as to how and why he had been released from TADA case by the Maharashtra Government.â€¦ (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me hear now.

...(Interruptions)

1405 hrs

**(At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came
and stood on the floor near the Table.)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 16th April, 2002, at 11 a.m.

1405 hrs

***The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Tuesday, April 16, 2002/Chaitra 26, 1924 (Saka).***

.....