

**Title: Need to open Sitabuldi Fort area in Nagpur for the tourists and develop its adjoining areas.**

**SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR):** Sir, the tercentenary year of Nagpur city which completed its 300 years in January, 2002 is being celebrated as an important occasion. Many important projects have been decided to be taken up on this occasion. One of the proposals made is to keep the Sitabuldi, situated in the heart of the city where the Army of Bhonsala's fought the Britishers, open to the tourists and to develop its adjoining areas lying idle, to a Rock Garden, making provisions for Children Park, walking tracks, plantation of trees, creation of fountains etc., so as to give it a beautiful look. The light and sound programme reflecting the historical importance could add further charm to the tourists.

Many social organisations have proposed to develop this open area through their own financial resources. The Members of Parliament are also willing to release funds out of their MPLADS.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Defence to agree to open the fort area to the tourists and for the development and beautification of the surrounding areas jointly by the Territorial Army and social organisations.

**SHRI RASHID ALVI (AMROHA):** Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House. The Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. Is it possible?

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The bell is being rung-

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member, Shri Dip Gogoi may speak.