

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : How many Members are still there to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are more than ten Members.

Now, the hon. Members shall allow the House to continue. Let us take the next item of Business.

Now, Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Sir, I am on point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now there is quorum.

14.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to develop Bateshwar near Agra as a tourist resort**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Bateshwar Mela about 62 k.m. from Agra. This fair is organised once a year. The devotees from all over the country come here. The 101 temples on the banks of Yamuna are very important from the tourism point of view. The Government of India had sanctioned about 40 lakh rupees in the year 1993. The hon'ble Minister of Tourism had declared Bateshwar as place of tourist importance. No progress has been made in this regard so far.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested that early action may be taken to develop Bateshwar as a tourist centre.

(ii) **Need to provide more railway facilities at Jalesar road railway station, U.P.**

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the railway services in my Parliamentary constituency Jalesar are acutely sparse. It is very necessary to provide halt of Magadh Express at Jalesar Road and for Marudhar Express and Jodhpur - Howada Express at Ferozabad. The halt of these trains and

introducing EMU Passenger train from Delhi to Tundala would benefit lakhs of people of this area and there would be development of trade, agriculture and tourism etc.

Sir, through you, I request the Minister of Railways to solve these problems.

(iii) **Need to set up a Groundnut Research Centre at Churu in Rajasthan**

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture towards my Parliamentary Constituency Churu district in Rajasthan and submit that a large quantity of groundnut is produced in Churu district which has comparatively thick grain and upto 20 quintal groundnut is produced in one Bigha, but due to lack of adequate and proper marketing facilities, the farmers of my constituency are compelled to sell their produce to the middlemen and traders at low prices.

I request the Minister of Agriculture that arrangements should be made for procurement of groundnut through Central Agencies in Churu district. Arrangement for export of groundnut be made and efforts should be made to increase its consumption in the country and its use in food for removing the difficulties of the farmers and for the progress of the farmers. Agriculture extension service may be made available for developing improved variety of groundnut and increasing the yield. Special subsidy should be made available to the farmers for meeting the basic needs such as purchase of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agriculture implements so that the production of groundnut may be increased in Rajasthan and the farmers may be benefited.

(iv) **Need to introduce a new Train/DMU between Rourkel and Sambalpur in Orissa**

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, Rourkela and Sambalpur are two premier towns in Orissa coming within the same northern revenue divisions of the State. But this important industrial sector is not properly served by the Railways. Due to want of required number of trains, large number of passengers are subjected to a great deal of inconvenience. Although the minimum demand for the introduction of another passenger train/DMU originating from Rourkela in the morning and returning from Sambalpur in the evening was acknowledged by the divisional and zonal authorities, it is a matter of regret that the same has not

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

yet materialised. As a result thereof, discontentment among the people is mounting up.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Railways to personally intervene in the matter and do the needful in this regard without further delay.

(v) Need to lay Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the demand for a Railway line between Tellicherry and Mysore via Coorg has been pending for the last nine decades. The first survey on this route was initiated during the British regime by the South Indian Railway Co. This survey had to be abandoned midway due to the outbreak of the First World War. Thereafter, three more surveys were conducted before Independence. All these surveys go to show that this route is economically feasible and strategically important. The erstwhile Mysore State and Madras Presidency had strongly recommended this line. After Independence also, techno-economic feasibility surveys were conducted. By all standards, this railway line will help in developing Kerala and Karnataka. Thousands of trucks and hundreds of buses are plying on this route daily. The great potential for tourism in this part of Kerala and Karnataka attracts thousands of tourists every year. Ports of Calicut, Beypore, Tellicherry and Azhikkal could develop as a result of this line. Coorg, Wynad, Mysore and Cannanore have an abundance of cash crops. Trade and industry will prosper in this region by laying of this railway line. As of now, persons travelling from Tellicherry to Mysore have to take a round about route of about 600 kms. via Jolarpet whereas a Tellicherry-Mysore line via Coorg will shorten the distance to about 200 kms. Former Railway Ministers including late Lal Bahadur Shastri were convinced of the genuine necessity for such a track.

I request the hon. Railway Minister to give paramount importance to this century old proposal.

(vi) Need to ensure that the people living below poverty line in Sitamarhi district, Bihar are issued 'red card' to draw ration at subsidised rates under Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, the Union Government are distributing 10 kilogram wheat to each family living below the poverty line per month under Public Distribution System at half the rates. The State Governments issue 'red card' to the families identified as living below the poverty line. The rules are

not being followed properly in issuing 'red cards' in Sitamarhi district of Bihar. The lands are not being issued to the landless agricultural labourers, small farmers, coolies, Rickshaw pullers etc. in rural areas due to which there is a lot of agitation and discontentment among rural people.

I request the Union Government that an inquiry may be conducted about all the red cards issued in Sitamarhi district to make Public Distributions System more effective and popular and to benefit the people living below poverty line and issue order for issuing the red cards to the deprived families.

(vii) Need to sanction adequate funds for development of Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in Kerala

[English]

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil) : Sir, the Airport of Thiruvananthapuram lies in a very important international air route from the Southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere. It is one of the safest airports too. It was only in 1991 that the Trivandrum Airport was declared an International Airport, and this was the first airport in India after Independence to be declared international. A good number of foreign airlines are willing to operate from Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum). Many others would like to use the airport for refueling and other services. But the developmental work of this airport is only at a snail's pace, which has led to the loss of crores of rupees every month. On the other hand, the passenger traffic is increasing even without much amenities due to lack of funds.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into this matter immediately and allocate sufficient funds for the development of the Thiruvanthapuram International Airport without any delay.

(viii) Need to set up an F.M. Radio Station at Manjeri in Kerala

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : There was proposal to set up an FM Radio Station in 'Manjeri', with 3 kv FM Transmitter and sufficient amount has been sanctioned for this project. The formalities of acquisition of land earmarked for the installation of the Radio Station have also been completed by the local people.

It is a matter of serious concern for the people of this region that an FM Radio Station has not so far been set up at Manjeri in Malappuram district of Kerala, which is the most backward area.

It has already been delayed and the Chief Engineer, AIR, Southern Zone should take expeditious steps to