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Title: Need to provide basic facilities to the pilgrims coming to Pandharpur in Maharashtra.

श्री श्रीरंग आप्पा बारणे (मावल): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मेरी बात मराठी में यहाँ रखना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि महाराष्ट्र के पंढरपुर क्षेत्र का मुद्दा है और मराठी जानने वाले बहुत सारे भक्तगण और वर्कर वहाँ रहते हैं।

□ Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the holy shrine of Pandharpur in Maharashtra is visited by a number of devotees and most of them are from South-Indian States. In the month of Ashadhi and Kartiki there is a huge pilgrimage particularly on the occasion of Ekadashi. At this time 10 to 20 lakh devotees come here to seek blessings of Shri Pandurang. In the month of Ashadha more than 200 Palkis come on foot from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Palkis come walking from Shri Kshetra Dehu of Jagatguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj, Shri Kshetra Alandi of Shri Dyaneshwar Maharaj and they walk for 20 to 22 days covering a distance of around 200 to 225 kms. The number of devotees taking part in this procession is around 5 to 6 lakhs. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, it is the only celebration in the entire country where such a huge gathering take part in a walking procession. Pandharpur is a small town to provide all kinds of amenities to the devotees and the municipal council has limited resources to do all these. State Government also supports it but that is not sufficient. Chandrabhaga river is equally important as river Ganges. But, due to lack of amenities, the warkaries and lacs of female devotees are bound to excrete in open on the banks of this river and this has been continued for the last many-many years because they are helpless. After this pilgrimage, for the whole

month this town gets filled with bad odour and filths and people fall prey to diseases. Hence, it is my request to you Sir that we should get the special monetary assistance to develop all necessary amenities at Pandharpur as done in the case of other holy shrines and pilgrimage centres throughout the country. Thank you. Shri Ram Krishna Hari.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Vinayak Raut,

Shri Rahul Shewale, Shri Rajan Vichare, Shri Sanjay Jadhav, Dr. Shrikant Shinde, Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Shrirang Appa Barne.