

feelings of Buddhists all over the country and the world and will be a very good tourist attraction from the east and far east Asian Nations.

- (v) **Need to introduce a new train between Gaya and Delhi and also to regularise Deluxe Express on this route**

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Even after 43 years of independence not a single daily train has been introduced on the Grand Chord for Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Ahmedabad and other Metropolitan cities whereas a number of new trains have been introduced in other parts of the country from time to time. For example, in case of Patna, six pairs of trains have been made available from Patna to Delhi. Out of these, two trains viz, the Sharmaji Express and the Ganga-Yamuna Express which originate from Patna itself provide convenient night service. In the seventies, Tinsukia Mail was introduced through the Grand Chord, but later it was diverted from Gaya-Kiul line and run via Patna.

While there are eleven pairs of daily trains for Delhi and Amritsar via Patna there is only one train (i.e., Kalka Mail) via Gaya and that too the whole day is wasted in train and it reaches Delhi at night. For the time being there is only one train running thrice a week on the Grand Chord. It is the Deluxe Express. If it is run for four days more, more than 1 crore people in Nawada, Aurangabad, Rohtas and Varanasi districts will be benefited and with this their longstanding demand would be fulfilled.

So, keeping in view the convenience of more than one crore people of the Grand Chord area, I urge the Central Government to introduce a new train between Gaya and Delhi and regularise the services of 2381/2382 Deluxe Express on this route.

- (vi) **Need to review the Proposal to increase duty on paper rolled bidis**

[English]

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): Sir, paper-rolled Bidi manufacturer is a small trade in the country. West Bengal pioneers it and no other state till date manufactures this type of Bidi, popularly known as Sadabidi. It is absolutely a labour-intensive industry and at no stage any machine is involved. This industry is particularly located in my constituency Serampore where nearly 25,000 workers, mostly women coming from the poorest sections of the society, are employed.

This paper-rolled Bidi has been re-categorised in this year's Central Budget proposal. It is proposed to levy excise duty at the rate of Rs. 10.75 per thousand Bidis instead of Rs. 3.90 charged earlier. This proposal of abnormal jump in the central excise duty would cripple this industry resulting in its closure rendering thousands of workers unemployed.

While appreciating the Union Government's attempt to curb the dangerous habit of smoking, the Central Government is requested to review its proposal of levying such exorbitant duty on this industry otherwise thousands of poor workers in my constituency and their families would have to bear the brunt of the crisis of the industry.

- (vii) **Need to ensure admission of deserving candidates in professional courses**

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Sir, the Constitution of India provides reservation for backward classes in respect of admission to professional courses such as medical, engineering, pharmacy, etc. However, the Government of Maharashtra has allowed a few privately run Government aided medical, engineering and other professional colleges to admit students upto 20% at the discretion of the managing committee.

Several cases have come to notice where the managements have been ac-