

[English]

(viii) Need to develop Erumeli in Kottayam District, Kerala, as pilgrim centre of national importance

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Erumeli in Kottayam District in Kerala is an important pilgrim centre where lakhs of people pay visit from throughout India every year. As a standing example of practice of secularism, the pilgrims pay homage to Hindu and Muslim worship centres. People who visit the famous centre at Sabhrimala come to Erumely to pay homage there first. Erumely should therefore be developed as a pilgrim centre of national importance. A road from Erumely to Chalakkayam makes the approach to Sabarimala very easy, saving 50 kilometers. Some funds were sanctioned and work was started. But now it has been stopped due to paucity of funds. I request the Union Government to forthwith study the possibility of developing Erumely and the above road and to sanction enough funds for execution of the works immediately.

13.45 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1990-91

Ministry of Industry—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER The House now shall take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Industry.

Shri Ram Pujan Patel was on his legs.

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur): Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I was expressing my views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Industry. There is need to set up more sugar mills in the country because the sugarcane produced in large quantity by farmers cannot be crushed in the

currently available capacity of the sugar mills and because here is no provision for setting up another sugar mill within a distance of 40 kilometers from the existing Sugar Mill. So I request the hon. Minister to pay attention to this aspect. It is the moral responsibility of the Government to ensure proper use of the sugarcane produced by the farmers. If the molasses is used for manufacturing liquor? I would go to the extent of saying that the Government is making deliberately the youth of the country liquor addict and spoiling them. This is against the principles of Mahatma Gandhi. Who wanted complete prohibition in this country. We have not been successful in enforcing prohibition in our country. For the last 2-3 years I have seen that liquor shops are coming up in villages also. This will spoil the character of youth in this country and they will become incapable of doing anything for the country. It would be better if the alcoholic substance produced from molasses is used as fuel to run motor vehicles. This could be useful considering the shortage of petrol in our country and our dependence on other countries for petrol. So my submission is that if any petroleum product can be derived from molasses it would prove to be a better use molasses. This will help us save valuable foreign exchange. The Indian economy can also become stronger.

People don't see any use of molasses and throw it away. This should be paid special attention. Molasses can be used as a raw material and if we fail to do so it will go against our economic in built.

I come from Phulpur constituency which was also the constituency of Pandit Nehru. Incidentally the present Prime Minister hon. Shri V.P. Singh too has represented that constituency at one time. In 1981 Rao Birendra Singh who was Agriculture Minister at that time announced in Phulpur in the presence of the then Prime Minister that a sugar mill would be set up there. Nine years have passed since but no sugar mill has been set up there. A proposal was sent for the Central Government's consideration. Whether the proposal was considered or not is not known