

[Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria]

area. Though, it has got a lot of mineral wealth, it lacks railway facility. Situated at a distance of 736 kms. from Delhi, Udaipur is a single place in Rajasthan which is connected with Delhi by a train viz. 'Chetak Express' which takes twenty hours to cover this distance. As a result traders and tourists and others have to waste two days. The train reaches Udaipur at 9.15 P.M. after leaving Jaipur at 6 P.M. As a result thereof the benefit of three trains becomes equal to that of 2 trains. Therefore, if the running time is reduced then, time, staff as well as a train would also be saved. This would save railway's expenditure as well. I have raised this question in the House on various occasions in various forms, but no action has been taken in this regard by the Ministry of Railway so far. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards this matter.

**(v) Need for special grants for carrying out proper repairs and preservation of ancient monuments in Orissa.**

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatisinghpur): It is a matter of great concern that about 2328 monuments in the State of Orissa are in a very dilapidated condition. Most of these are likely to collapse if necessary repair measures are not taken immediately. A stone slab recently fell from Lord Jagannath temple, Puri which has not been refixed so far. Stone slabs are also falling from Sun temple, Konark. Adequate repair and protection measures are not being taken on the Lord Lingaraj temple at Bhubaneswar. Though a separate archaeological circle has been created exclusively for Orissa, it has failed to rise to the occasion. Due to negligence of the archaeological circle as many as 711 ancient temples and monuments in Puri district, 261 in Cuttack 187 in Sambalpur, 26 in Kalahandi, 90 in Balangol, 195 in Koraput, 585 in Ganjam, 48 in Sundargarh, 138 in Balasore, 41 in Phulbani and 45 in Mayurbhanj district are in a bad shape and may collapse any moment.

The Government of India is laying emphasis on the proper preservation of ancient monuments. Orissa is rightly called the State of temples. But it is regrettable that the ancient temples and monuments in the State will only be there as ancient remains if conservation measures are taken at the present pace and half-hearted manner. As these monuments are the symbol of ancient Kalinga or Utkal which has witnessed many glorious events of ancient Orissa, I request that the Government of India should make a special provision of grants for the proper repair and preservation of these monuments.

**(vi) Need to link Kargil by air**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. HASSAN COMMANDER (Ladakh): It has been a long standing demand of my Constituency Kargil that it should be linked to other places by air service. But it is the misfortune of the people of this region that their demand has not been fulfilled even after 40 years of independence. The air service has not been started there despite their demand for it. Whenever any high dignitary from centre goes there he promises for bringing Kargil on air map, but nothing has been done so far. The result is that for full eight months this area remains cut off from the rest of the country, following heavy snowfall, and the State and Central Government remain unaware of the affairs of this area. Therefore, I fervently appeal to you that you should provide the inhabitants of this area an opportunity to reach in other parts of country by bringing it on air map so that they too become part of the mainstream.

Lastly, once again I would like to make an ardent appeal to you that this area should be linked by air-service.

**(vii) Need to set up South-Western Railway Zone for Karnataka with its Headquarters at Bangalore.**

[English]

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRI-YAPPA (Chitradurga): Karnataka