

[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

State has a vast area with a population of more than 4 crores. The development of railway line there is quite disproportionate to the area. It has a total of only 300 kms. railway line. Karnataka is split among 3 railway zones, namely, Southern Railway (HQ at Madras), South Central Railway (HQ Secunderabad) and Central Railway (HQ Bombay) resulting in total neglect of railway development activities in the State. The State has only 60 kms. of broad gauge double line, but there is no trace of triple or quadruple lines either in broad gauge or metre gauge as in other States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Railway Reforms Committee had recommended the creation of the South Western Railway (SWR) Zone for Karnataka with Headquarters at Bangalore, constituting Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli and Sholapur Divisions. The Railway Ministry had agreed to this in principle and in fact, while laying the foundation stone for the divisional office at Bangalore, the future requirements of housing the railway zone office was kept in view and 9-storeyed building had been planned. Owing to certain tragic events which took place in 1984, this proposal is still hanging fire in the National Planning Commission. Karnataka satisfies all the parameters required for setting up of a railway zone as recommended by the Railway Reforms Committee.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to set up South Western Railway Zone for Karnataka with its Headquarters at Bangalore at the earliest.

(viii) Need to construct Rehabilitation Centre for the leprosy cured at Koratty Leprosy Hospital in Trichur district, Kerala

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Koratty Leprosy Hospital, Trichur District, Kerala is one of the oldest hospitals in the State. A proposal for open-

ing of a Rehabilitation Centre there was in the process and even foundation stone thereof was laid a few years back.

The patients from the Hospital after treatment are not accepted by the society. The proposed rehabilitation centre is the only place where the cured leprosy patients can work and live.

At present 25 wards in this Leprosy Hospital are occupied by nearly 800 patients. Out of this, about 4 wards are filled with those patients who are totally immobile. The conditions of these leprosy patients are very pathetic and they run from pillar to post for maintaining their livelihood.

As a representative of the Koratty, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to issue necessary directions to start the long pending construction work and rehabilitate the patients who are totally cured from the Leprosy in the rehabilitation centre.

14.38 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Position of Indians in Kuwait

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): I wish to revert once again to a matter which has caused deep concern to all of us in this House, that is, the condition of our nationals in Kuwait. On August 2 itself, the day the Iraqi troops entered Kuwait, we issued instructions to our Ambassador in Kuwait to take all possible measures for the safety and security of our nationals. He was specifically instructed to devise a suitable mechanism to keep in touch with our community, especially so in view of the large numbers involved. As the House is aware, we have about 172,000 of our nationals in Kuwait. Simultaneously, our Ambassador in Baghdad