

mously the artisans and traders in Kashmir arts by providing them with sufficient financial incentives, open new vistas for the marketing of the traditional handicraft goods, carpets, shawls, papier mache, wood carving, embroidery, etc. inside and outside the country.

While the State is on the threshold of tourist season this year, the Centre must provide special cuts on the air fares and railway tickets and also restore hill station concessions. Besides, this year all over the world through Indian missions, film shows and exhibits on Kashmir will be displayed. All United Nations and other agencies should be approached to directly finance and impart technical know how to the tourist industry in the State.

13.09 hrs.

(SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the chair*)

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to take steps to clean the waters of the Yamuna at Mathura

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Yamuna, the Ganga and the Saraswati are the three most important rivers in India from the religious point of view. Greater sanctity is attached to the River Yamuna in Mathura, which is the birth place of Lord Krishna.

According to our scriptures and religious faith in the whole of India, having a sip of the sacred Yamuna waters has more importance than bathing in there. It is unfortunate that due to the indifferent attitude of the administration the water level of the Yamuna is falling and it is a matter of sorrow that to day in the city of Mathura the sacred Yamuna has been reduced to a dirty 'nullah'. Because of the cloth printing industry there, the Yamuna waters have become red giving it the hue of blood. In the absence of sewerage in the Mathura city, the Yamuna river becomes a sullage drain in the morning as well as in the evening. Due to foul smell, one cannot even stand near the river, what to speak of taking a dip in it. Thus, the religious feelings of lakhs of pilgrims from all over the country are hurt and the people are losing faith in the sanctity of the Yamuna waters.

On 17 March (1985) the citizens of Mathura started a campaign for cleansing the Yamuna waters themselves. During the cleansing operations eight decomposed bodies were found. Tonnes of mud and moss are being taken out. The (Yamuna water) are of course, being desecrated but the apprehension is that hundreds of devotees may lose their lives by becoming victims of epidemic. It is a matter of happiness that the Hon. Prime Minister during his visit to Mathura expressed his views about the pollution of the Yamuna. I would, therefore, request the Government to adopt remedial measures in this regard at the earliest.

[*English*]

(v) Need for an early decision on the recommendations of the Committee for the welfare of ex-Servicemen

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Sir, The ex-servicemen of the country are entertaining very high hopes on the decision of the Union Government for implementing the recommendations of the high-level Committee for the welfare of ex-servicemen set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Shri K.P. Singh Deo, the then Union Minister or state for Defence (now Minister of State in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms). The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 27th October, 1984 and its was placed on the Table of both Houses of Parliament during the first session of the 8th Lok Sabha. The ex-servicemen are eagerly awaiting the Government decision.

I request the Government to announce its decision on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee at an early date.

(vi) Need to abolish the lease system in Delhi.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi): Sir, the system of land lease in the Capital is most unwarranted and an unreasonable one. If one purchases a house/flat/shop in Delhi, he pays full amount, Besides, he has to pay all taxes on that property like House tax, Water tax, Property tax, Wealth tax, Estate Duty etc. He has to pay these and other taxes because he is the 'Owner'