

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'

of the house/flat/shop but still the land on which the house/flat/shop is located is charged lease.

Now if due to some reason or the other, the owner is forced to sell it, he cannot do so for a specific period. Even after that, the rate of lease is increased on every sale.

This is a regrettable situation in which the 'Owner' is put in the Capital. Even the ruling party is committed to the abolition of lease system.

I demand the government of India to announce its decision to abolish the lease system.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to provide drinking water to the people of Jhunjhunu constituency from Indira Gandhi Canal

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Sir, Jhunjhunu area of Rajasthan is my constituency and here blood is cheaper than water. My area has a glorious history but it is a matter of regret that even after 38 years of independence, the people of the area have been longing for a few drops of water. Whatever water they get has to be fetched from far off places. That yellowish muddy water is filtered and drunk as if that is the elixir of life. It is true that our country has made tremendous progress in science but it is a matter of regret that in my area, where saline water is available, even today people have to draw water with the help of oxen and camels.

Due to scanty rains, water is available in the wells of the area at a great depth, with the result that what to speak of irrigation, water is hardly available even for drinking purposes. The power connections for the wells have been given to the farmers but due to irregular power supply, they have been facing difficulties. The resources made available by the State Government under the water supply scheme are inadequate. Rajasthan Government have their own limitations because of which many such schemes have not been implemented. I request the Government to make provision in the Seventh Five Year Plan to ensure that the water of Indira Gandhi Canal reaches

Jhunjhunu district so as to usher in green revolution in the desert land which has remained arid for centuries. This valuable water of the Canal has reached Taranagar of Churu district which is 15 to 16 kms away from my area. This water can be supplied to my area through a canal or pipeline. This will be of great relief to the people of my area.

(viii) Need to open new telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

There are 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh and there is acute shortage of communication facilities in these districts. Many a time I have narrated the difficulties of the people of my area to the Minister of Communications through letters but so far nothing has been done to remove these difficulties. I demand on behalf of the people of Himachal Pradesh that telephone exchanges be opened at the following places:

1. Hripur Dhar, Ranhat, Nauradhar, Shilai, Kofatta, Distt. Sirmour,
2. Jorsi, Haripur Patta, Barawari, Jawar Jamrot, Chhabsa, Delgi, Distt. Solan,
3. Ratnari (Chamin), village Panchayat Kalbog, Melthi, Barthata Jiwanipur, Kupui, Dodra Kwar, Distt. Simla

In addition, Solan, Nahan and Simla should be connected with microwave system. I request the Minister of Communication, to issue orders to meet the above demands at the earliest so that the people of the area are benefited. I would also like to submit that many persons have deposited money with your Department to get telephone connections but so far they have not been provided with this facility. I hope that the matter will be looked into and the difficulties of the people removed.

[English]

(ix) Need to Construct an over-bridge at Kallettumkara Railway Crossing (Kerala)

SRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram): Kallettumkara railway level-crossing is situated between two municipal towns of Irinju-