

in January 1982 with several recommendations for developing this historical place into a tourist centre. But, unfortunately, the Report is still pending with the State Government. There are certain recommendations in the Committee's Report which come under the jurisdiction of the Union Government such as the building of railway line i.e. Jalna-Khamgaon connecting Sinkhedraja, a military school, an ordinance factory, womens' university, etc. I request the Hon. Ministers of the concerned departments to extend their full cooperation in developing Sinkhedraja as a tourist centre.

The development of Sinkhedraja will be a true homage to the great mother who gave birth to the great patriotic fighter Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to double and Electrify the railway line between Bangalore and Madras

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : *Bangalore city is not only the Capital City of Karnataka but also a big business centre. Similarly, Madras City is a boon to businessmen and to the film industry. The railway line between these two cities is one of the oldest railway lines in India. Electrification and doubling of this high density route is one of the oldest demands of the people of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Till now neither it has been electrified nor doubled. Every day several thousands of people travel through this line.

The journey from Madras City to Jolarpet is somewhat comfortable. But from Jolarpet to Bangalore city the journey is very difficult as it is only a single line for the last several decades. The trains have to halt at each and every station to get clearance from the next station. Bangarpet is in between Jolarpet and Bangalore city which is also a very big business centre. Bangarpet is just five k.m. away from Kolar Gold Fields which is another important center of industries. A big factory of BEML

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada

is situated here. Therefore, not only several thousands of ordinary passengers fully depend upon this line but also businessmen and people working in industries. Therefore, I request the Hon. Railway Minister to double and electrify this line immediately.

[English]

(iv) Need to review the timings of the programmes in local languages from AIR and Doordarshan

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Local language programmes in AIR and Doordarshan are being consistently reduced in the recent months. This has caused concern in many States including West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Maharashtra, etc. where the local language is not Hindi.

For national integration a better balance of local and national programmes has to be worked out.

I draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to review the timings of the programmes in local languages, inform the House about the situation and take measures to bring about a proper balance.

(v) Need to Develop Srinagar Airport as an International airport with a view to boosting tourist traffic and trade

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : The economy of Jammu and Kashmir is mostly dependent upon the tourist trade. The Valley of Kashmir called 'Paradise on Earth' is famous for its scenic beauty all over the world. Besides, Kashmiri handicrafts, superb in craftsmanship are also having world market. Visitors from Europe and the Gulf countries have no direct access to Srinagar, the Capital and they have to undergo many difficulties and traverse vast distances before reaching the Kashmir Valley. Srinagar airport is directly connected with the capital Delhi and through it to other major cities of the country. In order to have direct access to Srinagar, it needs to