

[Sh. Ganga Ram]

the passengers during night hours are undescrivable. Even traffic policemen on duty are helpless as the taxi and scooter-rickshaw drivers refuse to obey them and thus the traffic policemen cannot help but they become silent-viewers of the tortures and inconvenience caused to the passengers. The behaviour of these drivers with the general public is highly objectionable and intolerable. If sometimes these taxi and scooter-rickshaw drivers are prepared to carry the passengers on the insistence of the traffic-policemen, then on the false pretexts of mechanical dis-order of their vehicle, they leave the passengers in midway at such a place where no other transport-facilities to reach the places of their destination are available to them and such passengers being the helpless lot, have to face the mental torture. Such a situation is very shameful for the administration. A lot of mismanagement is prevalent at New Delhi Railway Station and that much perhaps cannot be seen at any other place. It is a matter of great regret that in this matter, administration has turned a deaf ear to the repeated reminders of people's representatives. If the same situation continues, it will incite the feelings and wrath of the people which will go beyond control of the administration. In view of the seriousness of this matter, I would, therefore, request the Ministry of Home Affairs and Surface Transport to take urgent and effective steps in this regard.

(iii) Demand for declaring Bikaner city of Rajasthan a B-2 grade City

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of Bikaner city of Rajasthan was 4,49,870 in the year 1981-82 according to the census figures for the district. As per the mid-term census, estimated on the average per year increase of 10 per cent, today the population of Bikaner city comes to 5.50 lakh.

According to the Presidential notifica-

tion, any city developed in an industrial region with a high cost of living and heavy influx of tourists along with its importance as a place of pilgrimage may be upgraded. Recently, Jamangar has been declared as a B-2 grade city. Similarly, according to mid-term census, Gwalior, Jamnagar, Nasik, Vijaywada and Ajmer etc. have been declared B-2 grade cities.

Therefore, from religious and industrial point of view Bikaner should also be declared a B-2 grade city.

[English]

(iv) Demand for instructing Rajasthan Government for aerial sowing of indigenous plants in the soil erosion affected regions in the State's Haroti region

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): If there is any State in the country which is in greatest need for the preservation and enlargement of Forests, it is Rajasthan. Being a desert State with less than 11 per cent area under Forest Department and a meagre 1.75 per cent under actual Forest cover it needs to grow more Forests at a much faster rate than what is being done at present.

The western part of Rajasthan is a desert. The south eastern and eastern parts have hills full of rivers and nallas causing serious soil erosion all over the region. HAROTI region is most seriously affected by soil erosion. It has more than 60 per cent of the total eroded area of the State and the annual rate of erosion in that area is increasing as a result of loss of forest cover and faulty land use policy. The programme of afforestation is slow, expensive and wasteful.

In view of the above facts I request the Hon'ble Minister of Forest and Environment to kindly ask the State Government for aerial sowing of indigenous plants on a large scale in the ravine areas of HAROTI Region along the rivers, as in Madhya Pradesh. The palet-