

has been by far amongst the most important means of communication. Tourism, which in the past was epitomised in pilgrimages, was also very popular by river boats.

Only with the advent of other modes of transportation did river transportation fade into oblivion. But now a time has come when there could be great scope for its revival.

Partly, this is because of the growing bottlenecks with all other modes of transportation, but mainly due to the sophistication and the unique nature of this mode of travel. The Ganga, Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Narmada, Krishna, Cauvery, all have great potentialities for plying river launch cruises for both ethnic and international tour circuits for pilgrimage tours and for local movements.

But for promoting this concept, a whole new infrastructure has to be built up. Special boats with widespread booking facilities would have to be set up. The magnitude of the project could ultimately be very vast.

To undertake such a programme, the Government must set up an autonomous body called the River Travel Development Corporation and even preliminary surveys should be conducted by such an agency. This Corporation could not only own boats and conduct tours itself, but also be a catalyst in generating specific projects in the private sector.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to expand Inter-State Bus Terminal, Kashmere Gate, Delhi and improve its management

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Inter-State Bus Terminus at Kashmere Gate, Delhi, has become totally useless. About 20 years back, the Terminus was constructed at a cost of Rs. 4 crores and the aim was to regulate and streamline the ever increasing transport services at different places in the Capital.

The Delhi Development Authority exercises administrative control over this transport terminal, whereas this authority is in no way related to transport and traffic. In the coming years, the number of incoming and outgoing buses will reach 1,000 for which this terminal will be totally inadequate.

At present 4,000 buses are using this terminal and 2.5 lakh passengers board these buses and disembark therefrom every day. To solve this problem, there is need to expand and develop this place. There is need to allot space to the buses coming from Haryana, U.P., Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. It is not proper to concentrate the traffic emanating from here for all the States at one place.

Therefore, one place should be allotted for Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and a separate one for U.P. and Madhya Pradesh, which should be contiguous to the earlier one so that the passengers have not to run here and there. Keeping in view the convenience of the passengers and traffic management and also the needs of the increasing population, this terminal should be further expanded and made convenient and comfortable.

(vi) Need to set up an oil refinery at Morena, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for some time past, it has been widely reported in the newspapers that an oil refinery would be set up in Morena district of Chambal Division in Madhya Pradesh but now suddenly such news has stopped coming in the papers, and the oil refinery has also not been set up anywhere there. The people of Madhya Pradesh have been waiting for the setting up of this refinery as they have been hoping that with the opening of this refinery, the people of Morena and other parts of Madhya Pradesh will get employment and the adjoining areas will also be developed.

I request Government to ensure that an oil refinery is set up in the Morena district immediately.