

12.10. hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

in the Chair]

[English]

(ii) **Development of Visakhapatnam as a tourist resort.**

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : Visakhapatnam is a lovely valley city gifted with picturesque green hills, a beautiful sea-coast with sand beaches, back waters and natural harbour. It is endowed with most ancient, sculptured and historic temples like Simhachalam, Srikurmam and Annavaram which are nearby. The beach road between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam is one of the most picturesque roads in the world—one side surrounded by hills and another side with sea and sands and it is a gift of God. Natural harbour, back-waters and great industrial complexes are another star attraction. One of the biggest zoos in the country is located here in a beautiful valley in green forest touching the sea. Some of the places like Anantgiri, Araku, Sileru, Chintapalli, Machkund situated in virgin forests at altitudes of 4000M in Eastern Ghats are most awesome and spectacular with wild life, green and thick vegetation with several waterfalls and hill streams with huge hydro-electric projects.

Therefore, it would be most desirable to develop Visakhapatnam as a tourist resort of International standards and thereby, much needed foreign exchange could be earned. Further, Visakhapatnam beach may be developed on the lines of Kovalam Beach. Construction of tourist hotels on beach road, Simhachalam, Araku, Chintapalli, Machkund may also be taken up.

[Translation]

(iii) **Demand for local trains between Varanasi and Mughal Sarai.**

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazi-pur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, a large number of passengers come to Mughal

Sarai and *vice versa* to entrain the passenger trains. They travel between Varanasi and Mughal Sarai by buses, taxis and auto rikshaws. The traffic between Varanasi and Mughal Sarai is jammed frequently by trucks. Due to this, a large number of people miss the trains daily.

The number of trains running between Varanasi and Mughal Sarai is inadequate and the long distance trains often arrive late. There is restriction on short distance travel on Mail and Superfast trains.

For the convenience of a large number of railway passengers, it is necessary to run local trains between Varanasi and Mughal Sarai. It would facilitate very much the railway commuters if local trains are run at a frequency of one hour. As the number of passengers is very large, the Railways will also not suffer any loss.

I would therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to make immediate arrangements to run local trains between Varanasi and Mughal Sarai.

(iv) **Need to reconsider the increase in the rates of electricity by DESU.**

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : The people are very much agitated over the increase in the electricity rates proposed by the DESU recently. The increased rates of electricity would be applicable to all sections of the people and industrial units.

India is a developing country where agriculture is the main occupation of the people and there are mainly small industrial units and petty traders in the country. The main thrust of our economic policy is to encourage agriculture and the small industrial units. Electricity is the main source of energy for these units. Electricity as a source of energy in the expanding cities is all the more important because the danger of pollution in this case is almost negligible. The sudden high increase in the electricity rates has shattered all our hopes.