

requirements of Almora and Nanital districts of the state.

A survey of the project was conducted in the recent past. A follow up action on the survey report is yet to begin. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Planning and the Minister of Water Resources to take up the construction of the project at the earliest.

[English]

- (vi) **Need to ban poaching in Chilka lake to protect wild life there.**

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): The current dry spell in North India is driving scores of birds eastwards and unprecedented influx of migratory birds to the Chilka Sanctuary in Orissa in anticipated during the winter. The birds came from Ladakh, Mangolian Steppes, Caspian Lake in West Russian, Baikal Lake (Eastern Russian) North Pole and North Asian Regions to Chilka. This year on account of a number of lakes and lagoons in the country getting dried up, the birds coming from different regions of the world will congregate in Chilka which spreads over 1100 sq. kms. and 45 km midway island of Nalabana. Now, it has been ascertained that 3052 people are engaged in bird poaching in Chilka Lake. So, it is urged upon the Union Government to take appropriate steps to ban the poaching of birds so as to protect the wild life in Chilka Lake.

- (vii) **Need to start a direct train between Visakhapatnam and Tirupati.**

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): Pilgrimage to Tirupati, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, is more sacred to Hindus all over India, particularly, for the residents of South India namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, etc. To meet the

needs of North coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh an Express Train by name of Tirumala Express was introduced after several representations were made. This train starts from Kakinada at 2.00 A.M. and reaches Tirupathi the next day. This train is most convenient for the pilgrims of East and West Godavari districts which are densely populated. This train is just meeting the requirements of these two districts. But the North coastal districts namely Viskhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagram and greatly in need of direct train from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. In Visakhapatnam there is every facility to introduce a new train direct to Tirupati, as it is the Headquarters of South Eastern Railway.

The people of these three northern coastal districts are requesting time and again for a direct train from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. At present there is one train from Puri to Tirupati, which is not at all serving the needs of these districts and is inadequate to meet the ever increasing passenger traffic. I therefore, request the Railway Minister to accede to the request of these people and introduce the train at the earliest.

- (viii) **Need to Improve the functioning of Brahmaputra Board and also to take decision on Master Plan of the Brahmaputra.**

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat): The Brahmaputra Board was constituted by the Government of India in December, 1981 and it started functioning from February, 1982. Among the principal objectives of its constitution was that the Board will undertake scientific and analytical study of the mighty river together with its tributaries and prepare a Master Plan for controlling the recurring floods that cause wide-spread damage to the region, mainly Assam. The Board was also to undertake measure for execution of the Plan.