

Pradesh have to go first to Delhi, Aligarh, Tundla and Agra. It causes wastage of money and the people are put to needless inconvenience. The people of Madhya Pradesh and the Members of Parliament have made repeated representations in this respect but no action has been taken on them so far. I would request the Minister of Railways and the Government that super-fast trains from Gwalior to Calcutta and Ahmedabad should be run forthwith for the convenience of the people.

[English]

- (ii) Demand for a link highway to connect National Highways Nos. 47 and 17 in Kerala for the convenience of Pilgrims visiting Guruvayur Temple.

SHRI P.A. ANTONY (Trichur) : Trichur in Kerala is the cultural capital of Kerala State. National Highway No. 47 is passing through Trichur. National Highway No. 17 passes through the coastal area of Kerala. But there is no link highway to connect National Highway No. 47 and 17.

Guruvayur Temple is the most important pilgrim centre of South India. Thousands of pilgrims are coming to visit Guruvayur Temple daily from all parts of India. A link highway between Trichur, i.e., NH 47 through Guruvayur to NH 17 will help the tourists and pilgrims to visit Guruvayur Temple and also reduce the density of traffic in this area.

There is a proposal to connect NH 47 and NH 17 through Guruvayur. I request the Government to expedite the matter.

- (iii) Need to look into the grievances of about 40,000 sailors in the country.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : It is estimated that nearly 40,000 people are employed in the country as sailors. About 10,000 are from Kerala alone. These sailors are treated as contract labourers and are not guaranteed with permanent jobs throughout the year and sometimes they have to wait for a number of months

for another chance of sailing. There are instances of their not getting chances for 2 years or more. During serving period, they have to work very hard and they usually lose their health before retirement. Various facilities enjoyed by Government and private employees are denied to these sailors.

Considering the miserable working conditions of these serving sailors, the Government of India was kind enough to appoint a Commission called Nanda Commission to go into the service conditions and other aspects of various difficulties experienced by sailors. Though the Commission has submitted its report, the various recommendations of the Commission have not been implemented.

I urge upon the Ministry of Surface Transport to look into various grievances of this large number of sailors whose services earn large amount of foreign exchange to the country.

[Translation]

- (iv) Demand for strict enforcement of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India has the largest record of steps taken to protect wild life in the past. King Ashok the great, had imposed ban on the hunting of wild life as far back as in 300 B.C. To make the ban effective, the King had got the names of those birds, animals and fishes inscribed on the columns whose hunting was prohibited. The ban was stringently imposed. The animals of the forests are our mute friends. Man should treat them with compassion, sympathy and love. We will have to enlighten the common people through the Indian Board for the welfare of wild life for arousing soft feeling for those animals. Government have enacted "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960" and made therein such provisions which enjoin upon the people to regard animals as their friends and not to treat them with cruelty or to torture them for their recreation. It is unfortunate that