

[Smt. Patel Ramaben Ramjibhai Mavani]

These museums provide a lot of useful material to the public and research scholars on subjects like history, geography, public administration, language, general knowledge, science etc. These museums are the most important basis of education but the economic condition of these museums is deteriorating these days. At certain places it is getting difficult to run the museums which are run by public trusts due to lack of income or income arising from token admission fee because heavy expenditure is incurred on their maintenance and salary of the employees.

Therefore, such museums should get full assistance from the Government and liberal aids and grants-in-aid should be provided to them. The Government should also provide cent-percent maintenance expenditure, remuneration of employees etc. so that the useful museums get encouragement and may be run properly.

[English]

(vii) Demand for re-starting Kamala Mill, Bombay promptly

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Kamala Mill at Bombay suddenly closed down on 7th November 1988 sending shock wages among its 3,000 workers on the eve of Diwali.

Workers who went to the mill for the first shift, found the premises locked and a notice put up at the gate that closure had become inevitable because of financial problems.

In fact, the mill showed a turnover of Rs. 1,522 lakhs last year as against Rs. 956 lakhs in the previous year. Exports last year totalled Rs. 917 lakhs. It was to pay nearly 36 lakhs as bonus on 7th November 1988 and workers were given bonus-slips a day before.

I urge upon the Government to take over the Kamala Mill or to use powers under

the law to restart it promptly. Sudden closures in this way have become a usual feature in the textile industry in recent years. Government should take a serious note of it.

(viii) Demand for Introducing Howercraft service along the Konkan region

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Access to Gao from Bombay is through the hilly west coast and there is no railway facility for linking the two places. Chances of providing the railway facility are remote in view of hilly terrain, at least in the near future.

Three districts of Maharashtra, i.e., Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg fall in this zone which covers a distance of 600 kms. An average of two hundred buses carry about six thousand passengers a day to meet the requirement of this zone. Presently, there is a steamer service of the Shipping Corporation. However, this is found completely inadequate as it does not stop at major ports such as Jaigad, Ratnagiri, Devgad, Malwan, Achare and Vengurla. It operates non-stop service from Bombay to Goa. These steamers are incurring losses of about one crore rupees to the Central and State Governments.

Many private companies have asked the Government for permission to start Howercraft service. They are prepared to provide stoppages at all stations. I, therefore, request the Government to introduce the Howercraft service along Konkan region.

(ix) Demand for Installing telephone meters besides telephone instruments at the users' place instead of keeping all meters in telephone exchanges

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali): Telephone-metering is done in the telephone exchanges behind the back of the user who is many a time a helpless victim to the whims and fancies of its operator and he

is subjected to very heavy bills which may not be entirely his own. To appeal against it, one has to pay the entire amount, and allowing the appeal and return of the amount is only a rarity. I have been suggesting to the Government to fix the telephone meter at the place of its user itself instead of keeping all the meters at one point in the telephone exchange. The user will know the number of calls he has made and will use the telephone accordingly to his needs. I had suggested that like electricity and a card noting the monthly consumption should be maintained by an inspector of the telephone department. But it has not been accepted by the Government on the ground of paucity of funds. Rs. 1,700 crores have been earmarked for 1988-89 for modernisation of telecommunications. Hence, I request that my suggestion may be taken up during 1988-89 as part of modernisation programme.

12.39 hrs.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are now going to item No. 7. Already we have taken one hour and forty minutes. Only twenty minutes are left over. However, I request the Members to be very brief while speaking their view-points.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill is another attempt to pervert the course of justice in this country. And in its objective of stifling all legitimate comments and criticism of any commission of inquiry, it seems to me that this is nothing but a mini-Defamation Bill.

In this country, we cannot and ought not to create islands of non-accountability. No one should be put consciously in ivory tower

and nobody should be treated as special class of citizens which this Bill seeks to achieve. Significantly by this amendment, the substantive law, as contained in Section 10-A of the main Act, is not being changed. And only a new procedure is being laid down. One would like to find out what is the reason which has promoted the Government. Along with the Bill, the Government has to submit a Statement of Objects and Reasons. If you go through the statement of Objects and Reasons, you will try in vain to find any justification which has been given for introducing this amendment. As a matter of fact, I find the recent tendency is that the Statements of Objects and Reason are treated by this Government as mere formalities. There is hardly even a lip service paid to the parliamentary norms and traditions. The result is that we do not know why a particular legislation is brought. This Government takes everything for granted because of its majority in the House and the Bills are sought to be introduced and passed without even taking the people into confidence as to the necessity of passing the Bills.

This Bill relates to the Commissions of Inquiry. The Commissions of Inquiry are not judicial bodies; these are not courts of law; these are merely fact finding bodies and they cannot adjudicate anything. On its own, the reports of these Commissions of Inquiry have no effect. The Commission has no teeth of its own. It is for the Government to accept or not to accept the findings of the Commissions of Inquiry and if the Government does not choose to accept, it need not give an explanation why it does not accept.

Although sometimes, the members of the Commissions of Inquiry are selected from the highest judiciary, they do not necessarily discharge and judicial function, nor do they act like judicial bodies. The Supreme Court has said in the well known case of Ramakrishnan Dalmia and if I may quote:

"... the only power that the Commission has is to enquire and make a report and embody therein its recommendations. The Commission has no power of adjudication in the sense of