

Indian origin are reported to have offered to invest Rs.100 crores for constructing a new Hong Kong on the soil of India preferably in Andaman-Nicobar Islands. This is an offer which should help India get the benefit of the high degree of commercial and industrial expertise plus funds with the Hong Kong based Indian origin people. Tiny Hong Kong provides employment to over two million people and has exports including re-exports larger than that of India. Our people settled there have contributed substantially towards this prosperity. They have enormous wealth in off shore funds and considerable experience in international trade. It is well known that certain industries like entertainment electronics are shifting from established countries like Japan towards the tax havens like Hong Kong and Taiwan. This is also an opportunity for India. If a Hong Kong life structure is created in India, it could attract these relocating industries and provide enormous employment. The Government should appoint a Parliamentary Commission to interview the non-resident Indians in Hong Kong and other places and recommend a course of action.

12.22 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

(iii) Need to construct an overbridge across railway crossing in North Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C.K. Kuppaswamy (Coimbatore) : In the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Central Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs for the construction of a over-bridge across the Railway crossing in North Coimbatore. Out of this amount of Rs. 55 lakhs, the Union Government in its current budget presented in March, 1986 has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 131 lakhs in the first phase for taking up this work in hand in the current financial year by the Tamil Nadu Government. But the State Government in Tamil Nadu has not taken any action for the construction of over-bridge in North Coimbatore. There is not even any indication regarding this

work to be undertaken by the State Government.

Sir, Coimbatore is one of the few big cities in Tamil Nadu and lakhs of people living in and around the City are facing a lot of difficulties in easy movement from one side to the other side of the city by crossing the Railway lines, especially in busy hours. Very often, there is a virtual blockage of road traffic due to closing of the railway crossing gate.

I would, therefore, request the Union Minister for Railways kindly to impress upon the Tamil Nadu Government to take immediate action for the construction of the said over-bridge in North Coimbatore for which the Central Government's approval and sanction of necessary amount are already available.

(iv) Need to take effective steps to safeguard the interests of cardamom growers in the country.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : The decline in the prices of cardamom continues unabated. During the past one month, the average price has come down from Rs. 157.74 to Rs. 123.86. This sharp decline in the prices has hit the cardamom growers very hard. It may be noted that a majority of the growers are small and marginal farmers. Therefore, this sharp downswing in prices has almost ruined them. If this situation continues, the production of cardamom is likely to fall in the years to come as the farmers are sure to switch over to other crops and the foreign exchange earnings of the country will fall considerably.

Therefore in order to save the cardamom growers and the economy of the country, urgent and effective steps should be taken. I request that the following steps be taken immediately :

(i) The cardamom Trading Corporation Limited should be asked to enter the market in a big way.

(ii) Sanction immediately the revised