

(ii) **Need to take steps for developing tourism in Kerala**

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): The State of Kerala is blessed with abundant natural beauty. The back-waters, beaches, sea coast, hilly areas, small rivers, canals, thick forests and total greenery are significant features of the State. Lot of tourist potential is available in the Southern most part of the country. The number of foreign tourists and others to Kerala is increasing these days. Tourism has been declared as an industry, but no progress in this regard has been made.

Inadequate hotels and other residential accommodation, lack of worldwide publicity of the natural beauty of the State and low Central investment in the tourism sector of Kerala are the main hindrances in the development.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take urgent and necessary steps for the effective development of tourism in the State of Kerala.

(iii) **Need to provide telephone facility in block headquarters of Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh through Satellite**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla): Department of Telecommunications is taking initiative to provide telephone facility in every panchayat of the country. To some extent, the population living in plains is getting this benefit but the people living in backward and unaccessible hilly areas have been deprived entirely because in such areas neither underground cable can be laid nor poles can be erected. If at any place the Department has erected poles and installed wires after putting much efforts it cannot perform due to the theft of the wires. Therefore, for providing facilities to the public, it is essential to provide telephone facility in such areas through satellite. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my area is in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh which is hilly and unaccessible area. Till now the Tehsil Headquarter has not been linked with the District Headquarters and it is even more difficult to link every Panchayat and Development Block Headquarters through telephone facility. If a

telephone service is made available through satellite, the people of these areas, specially of Jindori, Niwas and Bachhiya will be benefitted the most.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that Development Blocks in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh should be provided with the telephone facility through a satellite.

(iv) **Need to issue licence for setting up a sugar mill at Panchpedwa in Gonda district of U.P.**

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): Gonda district in Uttar Pradesh is a backward area from the view point of development. There are four sugar mills which have been there before independence. This area has Rapti, Burhi Rapti, Saryu, Ghaghara and many big and small nullah originating from Nepal. Sugarcane is the only cash crop of this area. As the sugar mills of this area do not have sufficient crushing capacity, the farmers find it difficult to sell their sugarcane crop due to which they have to suffer a loss. Some time back, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent names of the places and Industrialists to the Centre for giving licences for 15 new sugar mills. Which also included a place called Panchpedwa. But the Central Government has not given its sanction in this regard so far.

I, therefore, request the Government to issue a licence for opening a new sugar mill in Panchpedwa, Gonda without further delay.

(v) **Need for construction of a bridge on Sharda river at Ghanara Ghat in Pilibhit district of U.P.**

[Translation]

DR. P. R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Sharda river in my Parliamentary Constituency is densely populated on both sides and also has fertile land. Barring rainy season, the State constructs an Iron drum bridge during the rest of the year for to and fro movement. At the beginning of the rainy season or some time before it the iron bridge is dismantled due to heavy flow of water from the hilly areas the people have to travel a distance of 25 kilometres to reach across the Sharda river