

(ii) Need To Bring A Legislation To Extend Panchayati Raj Act To The Scheduled Areas

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Parliament have passed 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution to have uniform three-tier system of panchayats in the districts and Nagarpalikas and to hold regular elections. These amendments prevent article 243 to operate as it is by the State Government in Scheduled Areas of the country mentioned in article 244 (1) and article 244(2), that is, in areas which are ruled as per the provisions of V and VI Schedules of the Constitution. Article 243 M4(B) again authorises the Parliament to extend these Panchayati Raj provisions with some additions and alternations according to the necessity. Many State Governments have dissolved the district panchayats and other panchayats to hold elections according to article 243 but in many States, there are controversies whether they will hold elections in Scheduled areas or not. If the State will not hold elections of panchayats in the Scheduled districts, there will be a vacuum there.

I, therefore, draw the attention of the Union Government to bring a Bill to extend Panchayati Raj Act to the Scheduled Areas with immediate effect and allow them to hold these elections in Scheduled Areas along with other districts.

(iii) Need to Clear The Project for Exploration of Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka

SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, gold in being extracted from Kolar Gold Field for the last several hundred years. Even now, there is abundant gold ore in that area. The Kolar Gold Field and new areas surrounding it can yield about three to four grammes of gold per tonne. For this purpose, exploration has to be taken up. Added to this, new technology should be used to ensure profits. The Board of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. floated global tenders for exploration work. A big company from Australia had quoted the lowest amount. The Board of the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. accepted the tender of the Australian Company. But nothing has been heard in this regard.

About 20,000 workers and more than three lakh people who are dependent on the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. would be benefited if the exploration work is taken up. The people of Karnataka are eagerly looking forward for the green signal from the Central Government to this ambitious project.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to clear this vital project immediately and help the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. workers and their family members to earn their living.

(iv) Need to Develop Azhikkal Port in Cannanore District Kerala as an All Weather Port

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the State of Kerala is endowed with a long coastal line. And it was well known for its maritime trade over several centuries. However, even today, except for the Cochin Port, other minor and medium Ports in Kerala remain unutilised. Renovation and modernisation of these minor and medium Ports will go a long way in the socio-economic development of Kerala.

Here, I would draw the kind attention of the Union Government to the sad plight of the highly potential Port of Azhikkal in Cannanore district of Malabar area in Kerala. This Port is ideally located and can very well become an important centre for the export of cash crops cultivated in Kasargod, Cannanore, and Wyanad districts in Kerala and Coorg and Mysore districts in Karnataka. This Port assumes added importance in view of the Ezhimala Naval Academy being set up in the neighborhood of the Port. The fact that the NH-17 and the Madras-Mangalore railway line passes through this place adds to its significance.

In view of the growing importance of this Port, I urge upon the Union Government to do all that is necessary to develop the Azhikkal Port as an all-weather Port which will go a long way in promoting the overall development of the backward Malabar region of Kerala.

(v) Need To ensure Regular Supply of Diesel and Kerosene to Bareilly, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bareilly is one of the major cities of Uttar Pradesh. The supply of diesel and kerosene oil there has been erratic over the last few months. That is why its artificial scarcity is being caused and these things are being sold in the blackmarket. The consumers are compelled to pay more. This scarcity has caused due to several reasons, like non-availability of Rail wagons in time etc. Earlier also I had given an suggestion that these things be made available from Mathura refinery in order to ensure regular supply as is being done in the nearby Badaun district, but appropriate steps have not been taken so far.

I urge upon the Minister of Oil and Natural Gas to pay his attention towards this also and take necessary steps in order to ensure regular supply.