

and there is a great influx of tourists during the Summer season. The local populace, the national and international tourists are confronted with great difficulties due to the scarcity of drinking water there. There is also an acute shortage of water in the University premises. Besides, the people of New Shimla, Tutu, Jatog etc. are also faced with drinking water problem because there has been a population explosion in Shimla after independence. The State Government has spent a lot of money to cope up with the problem but the population has been ever increasing. The State Government is not financially sound enough to solve this problem. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to make available additional funds so that drinking water is made available in Shimla. Moreover, the water of river Satluj may be lifted and channelised to meet the needs of Shimla so as to solve the drinking water problem of the local people, the national and inter-national tourists.

(iii) Need to Restore Chandigarh - Leh and Chandigarh - Delhi Flights by I.A.C.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, after withdrawing from its circuit the Chandigarh-Delhi-Chandigarh flights, the Indian Airlines have now withdrawn its sole weekly flight between Chandigarh and Leh, despite the fact that last year the city's turnover exceeded the target by more than 50 per cent.

This action has not only deprived the Capital of Punjab and Haryana and the headquarters of Union Territory of Indian Airlines operations but also affected the supply of medicines, vegetables and other essential goods to Leh from Chandigarh and various parts of Punjab. The Leh-Chandigarh flight was availed of by Ladakhi students, Indo-Tibetan Border Policemen, businessmen and patients requiring emergency treatment at the Post Graduate Institute.

Chandigarh is the city of Pandit Nehru's vision but today it has become the only capital city besides Shimla to be without Indian Airlines connection.

I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to restart operations between Chandigarh and Leh and Chandigarh and Delhi.

(iv) Need to Lift ban Imposed on Export of Sandal wood

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga) : Sir, export of sandalwood in the form of chips, flakes and powder was banned with effect from 1.4.92. As a result of this, there has been lot of smuggling activities these days.

The Governments of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are auctioning dead trees including roots, cracked, hollow and knotted logs, chips flakes and powder Chips dust and flakes are the wastage which resulted in the carving of handicrafts. These cannot be used for any

other purpose gainfully. Even the oil content is must less compared to the cost of oil extraction. Only 5 per cent of the total dead trees are utilised by the local artisans for the purpose of handicrafts; ten per cent of the wood sold in the auction is purchased by distilleries for distillation. Because of this ban, there is no market locally for the sale of chips, dust and flakes. The Governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka are facing problem because of surplus stock as the present stockyards are flooded with waste stock of sandalwood. The Central Government are also losing their foreign exchange.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have already cleared the proposal for the export of 1,500 MTs of sandalwood chips, flakes, powder, 1,000 MTs of spent dust flakes and 500 MTs of Sapwood powder at MEP rates. Out of this, 25 per cent would go to State Governments.

I therefore urge upon the hon. Minister of Commerce to lift the ban and allow export of sandalwood chips, dust, roots, knots and flakes under OGL to herald a new milestone and to give a fillip for the export of sandalwood waste in overseas market. This will not only help the country but also rescue the traders of Karnataka and other neighbouring States from becoming bankrupt.

(v) Need to set up L.P.G. outlet at Ladnu Town in Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN (Churu) : There has been a long standing demand of the people of Ladnu town of Rajasthan in my Parliamentary Constituency, Churu for opening an L.P.G. outlet there. I have also apprised the hon. Minister of the above situation. This town inhabited by more than 50,000 people fulfills all the criteria required for opening an L.P.G. outlet. The internationally recognised institutions including Jain Vishwabharati are situated there. The concerned company has also got a survey conducted of the area but it is quite deplorable that this facility has not been made available to the common people so far.

Therefore, through you, I would urge upon the Central Government to make arrangements for making available the L.P.G. facility to the people of Ladnu town forthwith.

(vi) Need to Implement the Central Scheme so as to Solve Acute Drinking Water Problem in Kairana, Muzaffarnagar, U.P.

SHRI N.K. BALIYAN (Muzaffarnagar) . The level of water has steeply receded in the area starting from Budhana located centrally between the rivers Krishna and Hindan in Kairana falling under my Parliamentary Constituency, Muzaffarnagar. There the handpumps work for two three hours only. There is a shortage of drinking