

[Sh. Manoranjan Bhakta]

Bijnore, Badayun etc., since last 20-25 years are denied their citizenship. Even those people who have cast their votes during the last 3-4 elections, names have been deleted from the electoral roles.

In Nainital District, those who are applying for citizenship certificates are asked to pay a sum of Rs. 68/- individually which is not being charged in any other districts. The displaced persons from East Bengal who were scattered and settled in various parts of India, are facing harassment, denial of rights etc. This is a serious matter. I would, therefore, like to strongly urge upon the Government of India to decide once for all the status of these migrant families who have been rehabilitated/settled in India.

(v) NEED TO REVISE RECRUITMENT RULES OF POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

DR. K.D. JESWANI (Kheda) : Sir, the Post and Telegraph services are the backbone of the Communication System in the country. The importance of this system is still more realised with the advance in all the spheres of life.

Government of India has been going ahead with the policy of liberalisation and globalisation. This has opened new avenues for system of communication. New offers and systems are being evolved by many advertising agencies, who attract the masses through communication. The area of stock markets has also advanced manifolds. All these systems can only be kept viable through the communication system of Posts and Telegraphs Department. There has been a very slow pace of advancement and modernisation in this field. The

Postal Department is very rigid about recruiting new staff mainly for the delivery of posts to meet with the present requirements of the society. This has resulted in the backlog of the postal articles causing a lot of hardship to the people.

I urge upon the Government to revise and relax the old rules of recruitment of the delivery staff and increase the number of delivery Postmen in the Post Offices of towns and metropolitan cities of the country.

(vi) NEED TO FORMULATE A CENTRAL SCHEME TO COPE WITH ACUTE DRINKING WATER PROBLEM IN SAURASHTRA-KUTCH REGION OF GUJARAT

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present almost all the districts of Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat are facing severe drought conditions due to shortage of water.

Due to acute shortage of water, human beings, animals and birds, all are passing through a critical time. Business has almost come to a standstill.

Since the business has been closed, the problem of unemployment too has come up. People are on the verge of starvation.

The Government should, therefore, formulate a comprehensive scheme for providing drinking water and also augment the irrigation facilities in the area. Due to scanty rainfall in Saurashtra, the famine conditions keep on recurring. I,

therefore, request the Central Government to formulate a suitable scheme for finding a permanent solution to the drinking water problem in Saurashtra Kutch region.

(vii) NEED TO DECLARE PALANI IN DINDIGUL ANNA DISTRICT IN TAMIL NADU AS A TOURIST CENTRE

[English]

SHRI P. KUMARASWAMY (Palani) : Sir, Palani Murugan Temple is the most important and famous of all the temples of Lord Murugan in Tamil Nadu. This is the temple which attracts largest number of pilgrims throughout the year, next only to Tirupathi in South India. This temple of Karthik, is situated on a hilltop surrounded by lush green shrubs and meadows. Since Lord Murugan is associated with culture of the Tamils from times immemorial, people from all parts of Tamil Nadu visit the temple to worship the Lord and have a glance of the beauty of the hilly terrain reverberating with life. Pilgrims from the neighbouring States of Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh too visit Palani to have *darshan* of the Lord.

The Tamil Nadu Government has taken seen interest to develop Palani and provide amenities to the pilgrims. The inflow of tourists is constantly increasing and because of this, more tourist amenities like lodges, restaurants and transport, need to be provided. Since Palani is located at the centre of four other tourist centres, Nandy, Kodaikanal, Ooty, Madurai and Thanjavur, the tourists visiting these places, invariably visit Palani. Though thousands of pilgrims visit the temple every day, lakhs of pilgrims throng Palani during festivals. The Ministry of

Tourism has recently announced a Rs. 39,000 crore package for promoting tourism in the country in phases. Though more attention needs to be paid for promoting foreign exchange oriented tourism, interests of native tourists should not be ignored. Therefore, I request the Central Government to declare Palani as a tourist centre and allocate necessary funds for providing amenities to the pilgrims visiting Palani temple.

(viii) NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PUCCA BRIDGES ON GAUTAMI AND VAINETEYA GODAVARI RIVERS AT AMALAPURAM IN ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram) : Sir, the Gas Authority of India Ltd. is going to construct two foot-path pipe line bridges on river Gautami and Vaineteya Godavari rivers in Amalapuram in andhra Pradesh by investing Rs. 50 crore. My parliamentary constituency, Amalapuram, is almost an island. The people in this area are demanding construction of pucca bridges and not the footpath bridges.

This area is exporting nearly Rs. 1,500 crore worth of paddy, coconut and other commercial crops. In addition to the above agricultural produce, the ONGC and the Gas Authority of India are getting Rs. 200 crore per year from crude and gas, which are available in this area. Already the ONGC has invested more than Rs. 2,000 crore in L.G. project area, particularly in Amalapuram, for drilling operations and got very good results from crude and natural gas from this area. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is also coming forward for the construction of above bridges by paying some portion of share of the above bridges cost. The people and the market-