

reside in this region. Due to difficult terrain and other geographical reasons, this region as a whole remained underdeveloped as compared to other parts of the country. This situation gives rise to insurgency and other illegal activities which in turn created law and order problems to the local administration on the one hand and anti-national activities on the other which has always been against our national interest. Considering the geo-political scenario which has international ramifications, it has become imperative and highly desirable to have a separate Ministry to look into the various aspects of this unique region. This step will definitely provide quick development of the region and will generate nationalistic feelings among the disgruntled youth of the North East.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to set up a separate Ministry solely to look after the activities of the North Eastern region for its all round development and in the larger interests of the nation.

*(ii) Need to stop Mining Operations in Uttar*

*Kannada District, Karnataka*

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA (Shimoga) : Until last year Anehonda (Uttar Kannada) was a sacred lake worshipped by the local people. Today it does not have drop of water. It has turned into a lake of sand.

More than 10 irrigation wells have become sand wells and several hundred acres of rain-fed paddy growing land are now covered with sand.

If indiscriminate mining continues at the same pace in this region. In a few years from now the Big forest in Uttar Kannada district will look like the Sahara Desert.

Mining has wrecked the ecology of this region. It has resulted in massive degradation of forest, erosion of fertile top soil, large scale landslides, siltation in the Kali river and deposition of laterite soil.

A massive demonstration had been organised at Sirsi on January 27 to protest against indiscriminate mining in the area.

I, therefore request the Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to put a stop to mining in the region by not renewing the lease and licences of the companies and to protect the age-old forests of Karnataka.

*(iii) Need to provide more facilities at*

*Rourkela Railway Station, Orissa*

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh) : Sir, Rourkela is a pride city of Orissa having a Steel Plant and providing employment to thousands of people from all over the country. It also stands at the nerve centre of tribal region thereby playing a vital role for the economic development of the region. But in spite of its occupying a vital position and playing a crucial role it has been denied the required facilities by the railways. The Rourkela Railway Station does not have a terminal facility; as such new trains connecting it with other parts of the country could not be introduced.

Steps should be taken by the Government for providing terminal facilities at Rourkela. If there is no sufficient space for installing washing platform at Rourkela Station, it could be installed at Bondamunda railway yards. Besides this, there is no shed at Platform Nos. 4 and 5 as a result of which during the rainy season the passengers face lot of problems. Steps may be taken for the construction of sheds over Platforms Nos. 4 and 5.

I request the Union Government to sympathetically consider my requests.

*(iv) Need to set up a Science Museum and*

*Planetarium at Chandigarh*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, Chandigarh a modern city of Pandit Nehru's vision and the capital of two States of Punjab and Haryana besides being the Headquarters of the Union Territory is also an important educational centre and seat of learning in Northern India. It has the famous Punjab University, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh Medical College and prestigious colleges and schools. However, it lacks a good science museum, a science centre and a planetarium which are essential to impart necessary knowledge to young students in an interesting and effective manner.

Chandigarh is fast developing as a centre of domestic tourist attraction, as a gateway of four Northern States. As such, a Science Museum and a planetarium will be of immense benefit to the entire Northern region.

I urge the Union Government to take immediate steps for setting up such a Centre and Planetarium at Chandigarh.

*(v) Need to introduce a new train between  
Kalka and Patna via Chandigarh-Ambala-  
Muradabad-Bareilly-Lucknow*