

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*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to give notice under Rule 377 that around four lakh people from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are residing in Chandigarh in search of livelihood. Proper rail facility for these people from Chandigarh to their home town is not available as a result they have to come across a lot of difficulties.

I, therefor, would like to request the Government to introduce a train between Kalka and Patna via Chandigarh-Ambala-Moradabad-Bareilly and Lucknow to facilitates the people hailing from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in their journey.

(vi) Need to open more Post Offices in Shuklaganj and Ganga Ghat Towns of Unnao district (U.P.)

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Communication Minister towards the problems being faced by the people of Shuklaganj and Gangaghat municipality of Unnao district in my constituency.

People of Ganga Ghat and Unnao are facing great difficulties due to non-availability of sufficient branches of sub-post offices and they have to waste much time to go to post office. Coming and going to post office for telegraph posting letter and other works related to post office is time consuming. Ganga Ghat has only one post office having small number of persons.

I, therefore, would like to request hon. Communication Minister to sanction more branches of post office keeping in view the problem of Ganga Ghat and Unnao District and enhance the strength of the existing post office so that the people can get letters, telegrams and registered letter in time.

(vii) Need to run Nagercoil-Bombay Express Thrice a week and to Introduce a Direct Train Between Tuticorin and Delhi

[English]

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government towards difficulties being faced by the general public in the districts of Kamraj, Thirunelveli, Chindambaranar and Kanyakumari in the long journey express train after gauge conversion beyond Madurai.

Since conversion, public of the above-mentioned districts have facility of only one express train from Kanyakumari-Madras and the Nagercoil-Bombay express once in a week. To avoid the inconvenience to the public and Thirunelveli, Kamraj, Chidambaranar and Kanyakumari district, the Ministry should run Nagercoil-Bombay express thrice a week and a direct train from Tuticorin to Delhi. Arrangements should be made at Tuticorin to have links for all trains running from Nagercoil to Madurai.

(viii) Needs to Sanction a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Anakkayam in Malapuram District, Kerala

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, Malappuram district is one of the backward districts in Kerala with a geographical area of 3,550 sq. k.m. and population of more than 30 lakhs. The main occupation of the people is agriculture having a density of population of 871/km. sq. Seventy five per cent of the population depend on agriculture directly or indirectly with an area of 2.75 lakh hectares under cultivation. The agriculture products of Malapuram district like Banana, Betelvine, Cashewnut, Aracanut, Pepper, Ginger, Pulses Tapioca, Rubber etc. is dependable source for the entire State. Paddy is the main crop of the district. Important vegetables like Bittergourd, Ashgourd, Snakegourd, Pumpkin besides rice occupy the predominant place among the crops cultivated in the district. But quite unfortunately high yielding varieties of agricultural crops in the district is less mainly due to the lack of transfer of technology programme.

This alarming situation warrants intensive efforts especially among the Scheduled Casts/Scheduled Tribes and other poor farmers for which Kerala Agricultural University has proposed a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Anakkayam in the district. The proposal is still pending with ICAR without any progress.

I urge upon the Union Government to sanction the Krishi Vigyan Kendra for Malappuram district of Kerala State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.