

(II) Need to extend Financial Support for the Development of Kodungallur Port In Kerala

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, Kodungallur, which has recently been declared as a minor port and which is a major fishing centre, is having no cargo operation till-date. Construction of break-waters is expected to be completed in 1994. After capital dredging, channel will be stabilised giving a minimum depth of four metres. At present, the raw materials for FACT, Travancore-Cochin Chemicals and other industrial giants are being imported through Cochin port and ships carrying sulphur-phosphate, etc., are berthed in Cochin harbour. The cargo is transported to the industrial belt of Kalamassiry, Alwaye and Angamaly in self-propelled barges. Due to the very high port charges, the cost of transportation through Cochin port has become quite unattractive. If vessels could be anchored at Kodungallur at the earliest possible time, raw materials could be transported to the industrial belt without any pilotage or wharfage to be paid and with less overhead expenditure compared to Cochin port. A long-term agreement with labourers will rule out recurring labour disputes.

So, I urge upon the Government to extend financial support for the development of Kodungallur port even though this is a minor port.

(III) Need to enforce constitutional provisions relating to Municipalities in Union Territory of Chandigarh

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 and Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 came into

force on 24 April, 1993 and 1 June, 1993, respectively. Consequently, various States and Union Territories have amended the existing law on Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalikas or comprehensively legislated afresh so as to bring the relevant provisions in consonance with the Constitution Amendments.

While I appreciate the action of the Government of India in extending the provisions relating to Panchayati Raj to Union Territory of Chandigarh within the period of one year. I wish to take this opportunity to urge that immediate steps be taken to enforce constitutional provisions relating to Municipalities also without any further delay. The Estimates Committee, in its 31st Report presented to this House on 30 April, 1993, had also made such recommendation. Equally important is to issue necessary directions for converting leasehold property rights to freehold, which issue has been lingering on for very long now.

(IV) Need to introduce new trains from Kathgodam in Uttar Pradesh to Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Jammu.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI (Nainital): Long time back a new railway line was constructed from Rampur to Kathgodam, but passenger trains have not yet been introduced on this track. I have apprised the Govt. from time to time to introduce trains from Kathgodam to Bombay, Calcutta, Jammu etc. so that tourism in Nainital may get the fillup. Moreover, the Government has not started trains even after the announcement of introduction of new trains from Kathgodam to Delhi and Howrah.