

[Shri K. Pradhani]

two alumina plants. If the expansion programme gets delayed further, this major plant will not be able to cope with the demand of its product in the international market. The aluminium export may decline and the country may lose precious foreign exchange.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to expedite the expansion programme of NALCO without any further delay.

(ii) Need to Ensure Early Operated of Air Services between Nasik and Bombay

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): Sir, in recent times, many private airlines have been given permission to start air services in different sectors in the country. In Maharashtra, there is a persistent demand from the people of Bombay as well as Nasik to start air services linking these two places as these two places are connected with industrial and agricultural activities. Many businessmen visit Nasik for business activities as Nasik is one of the biggest trading centres for onions, grapes, sugar and other agricultural products. These people face a lot of inconvenience due to lack of air services between Nasik and Bombay. Raj Air Services have been given permission to operate their services between Nasik and Bombay. But till date, they have not started their operations.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism to see that Raj Air Services start their services immediately.

(iii) Need to shift Marathwada Region Presently Under South Central Zone of Railways to Central Zone

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE (Jalna): Sir, Marathwada region comes under South Central Zone whereas other regions of Maharashtra come under Central Zone of Railways. As a result of this, development of Marathwada region has suffered. The Head Office of South Central Zone of Railways is situated in Hyderabad. Representatives of people from Marathwada region have to go to Hyderabad for complaints/suggestions, etc. This causes a lot of inconvenience to them. Moreover, Jalna-Bombay Express is administered by two Railway Zones. The performance of this train so far as punctuality is concerned is very poor. In view of this, I urge upon the Minister for Railways to merge the Marathwada region which comes under South Central Zone of Railways with Central Zone to facilitate administrative convenience and proper care and development of Railways in Marathwada region. This can only be possible if the Marathwada region comes under Central Zone.

(iv) Need to take steps for Early implementation of Narmada-Shipra Link Project

[Translation]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue.

Ujjain is a historical city and is known for its culture and religious importance. Ujjain is one of the seven places in the country where after every twelve years "Sinhasth Kumbh" is held.

Ujjain is located on the banks of river Shipra and each year is visited by lakhs of pilgrims, who come to the place for a dip in the holy river and to have 'darshan' of Ujjaini. One of the twelve 'Jyotirlingas' in the country, 'Mahakal' is located in Ujjain. Historical Ashram of *Guru Sandipani*, teacher of Krishna and Sudama, *Harisidh Saktipeeth* and *Aradhya Garh Kalika* of *Vikramaditya* are located in the city of Ujjain. Prominent literary figures like *Kalidas*, *Matsyendra Nath* and *Vir Durga Das* all are associated with Ujjain.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to declare Ujjain as a holy city. In addition, steps should be taken for the cleaning of Shipra river and financial allocations should be made for the implementation of Narmada-Shipra Link Project too.

(v) Need to provide Facility of Metro Channel on Doordarshan to Ahmedabad City in Gujarat

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, there is a great demand from the people of Ahmedabad for provision of Channel II, High Power Transmitter Channel there. Ahmedabad, being the State Capital of Gujarat, has not been provided with this facility. In this connection, it may be stated that the other State Capitals in the country have already been provided with HPT Channel II by Doordarshan.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that Ahmedabad may also be provided with HPT Metro Channel II.

(vi) Need to set up a Doordarshan Broadcasting Centre at Chhapra and All India Radio Broadcasting Centre at Siwan in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue.

Bhojpuri is not just a language, but a culture, which is spoken in many States of the country. Bhojpuri is also spoken in Mauritius, Surinam, Trinidad, Guyana, Singapore etc. Bhojpuri language has its own songs, music and dramas. In India more than 14 crore people speak Bhojpuri.

No AIR Station and Doordarshan Kendra has been set up in the Bhojpuri speaking areas in Bihar. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to set up a Doordarshan Kendra in the district headquarters of Saran i.e. Chhapra, in Bihar and also to set up a AIR Station in the district headquarters of Siwan viz Siwan town, without delay so that the folk artists and craftsmen can promote and preserve their culture.

(vii) Need to Clear Pending Power Projects of Kerala

[English]

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasaragod): Sir, scarcity of electricity in the Mala region of Kerala is hampering the overall development especially the industrial development of the region. The only solution to this problem is early sanction to the State Government proposed diesel-based power generation