

[Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan]

in 1936. The survey report clearly states that this is a viable project. After independence late Shri K. Ramunni Menon, the then Law and Jail Minister of Madras, the then Railway Minister late Shri Panambilly Govinda Menon, took keen interest in the project. But link line from Tirur to Edappilly of the West Coast Railway still remains a distant dream.

To complete the Coastal Rail Line from Bombay to Kanyakumari, Tirur-Edappilly line is a must. Distance between Tirur to Kochi will be reduced by 35 kms. on the commissioning of the proposed line. It will hasten export of local produce like fish, copra, screw pine mat, khus-khus etc. Minor ports like Ponnani, Chettuva and Azhicode will regain their powerful magnanimity once again by the commissioning of this proposed link line.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to take steps immediately for a survey and thereafter the implementation of it for the construction of the Tirur-Edappilly Railway line.

(ii) Need to sanction four laning of National Highway No.3 in Maharashtra

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR

(Nasik): Nasik District in Maharashtra is fast growing industrially and agriculturally. Daily about 6583 trucks, 907 buses, 4201 cars and 3551 riksha/motorcycles ply from north Maharashtra to Bombay through Nasik carrying vegetables, industrial products, sugar, onion etc. Besides this, being a pilgrim centre, daily about 200 State Transport buses ply from different parts. The existing National Highway No.3 is over loaded with heavy

vehicular traffic causing frequent accidents resulting in loss of human lives.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to sanction four laning of National Highway No. 3, at the earliest.

(iii) Need to create a new Railway Zone with its Headquarters in Orissa

DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA (Balasore): Recently, some new Railway Zones have been created by bifurcating old Zones. But, in spite of repeated requests, the South-Eastern Zone could not be bifurcated and a new Zone could not be created in Orissa. South-Eastern Railway have the highest turnovers in 1990-91 Rs. 2145.96 crore, 1991-92 Rs.2499.95 crore and 1992-93 Rs.2930.36 crore. As per the workload and area covered, South-Eastern Railway Zone needs bifurcation. C.A.O. Office is functioning at present in Orissa. Moreover, from Vizag to Calcutta, the entire distance covered by South-Eastern Railway Zone which functions with headquarters at Calcutta, is situated at the extreme end of the Zone. Operationally, it is not manageable. The General Manager and other officers have to move a distance of more than thousand kilometres to Orissa and Vizag for supervision. For an exigency, it is also not convenient.

I, therefore, earnestly request the hon. Minister of Railways for creation of a new Railway Zone, the headquarters of which should be in Orissa.

(iv) Need to construct ITDC Hotels in Kodaikanal and Ooty in Tamil Nadu for development of Tourism

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul): An amount of Rs. 100 crore has been

allocated for the development of tourism in the country. Out of this, a paltry sum of Rs. 2 crore only has been allotted for tourism development in Tamil Nadu. Moreover, for construction of 'Yatri Niwas' at Rameswaram, a meagre sum of Rs. 40 lakh has been sanctioned. I would request the Hon. Minister for Tourism to allocate at least Rs. 10 crore for the development of tourism in Tamil Nadu as sought for by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Sir, at present, ITDC hotels are available in Mahabalipuram and Madurai only, while Kodaikanal and Ooty are important hill resorts where ITDC hotels are not available. Moreover, due to recent heavy rains, highways leading to Kodaikanal and Ooty have been heavily damaged and also nine persons have lost their lives in my constituency at Pandimalai and the foreign tourists are not able to visit these places.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to construct ITDC hotels in Kodaikanal and Ooty and also sanction funds immediately for repairing the damaged highways.

(v) Need to take steps to facilitate operations of Boeing Aircraft between Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupathi and Madras sector

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Traffic to and from Vijayawada has been increasing at a substantial rate. The Government of India have stated that to meet the growing demand, Indian Airlines will take steps to operate Boeing craft to Vijayawada Airport before the end of 7th Five Year Plan. While night landing facilities have been provided, lengthening and strengthening of the runway work has not yet been grounded though land was made

available by the State Government. Meanwhile Vayudoot has taken up operations in Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Rajahmundry sector. These operations are irregular and timings unsuitable. The passengers are thus experiencing inconvenience. The operations have now been discontinued leading to severe inconvenience to the travelling public for nearly two months.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to immediately look into the matter and take necessary steps for continuation of Vayudoot operations. I also urge upon the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism to take immediate steps for lengthening and strengthening the runway to facilitate operations of Boeing Aircraft between Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Tirupathi and Madras sector.

(vi) Need to provide necessary financial assistance to Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd. at Ooty, Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited (HPF) in my constituency, Ooty, Tamil Nadu, is the only one of its kind and one of the most prestigious public sector companies in the country. It was established in 1960 on the basis of the recommendations of the Estimates Committee of Parliament.

Hindustan Photo Films manufacturers black and white products and also CTS-based x-ray films. They also import jumbo rolls of colour cine films, process and market the same in smaller sizes.

They have also started a polyester based x-ray film project in 1987 in collaboration with Du Pont of America. This will be the only project of its kind in