

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

Vanchinad Express in Kerala it had halts at Changanacherry, Thiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikkara, Kayamkulam and Varkela. Now the train takes 4 hours and 20 minutes between Trivandrum and Emakulam. If all the above stoppages are allowed, it will only take additional time of 20 minutes. This increase in running time need not be taken seriously when we consider the fact that the train at present is running with about 50 per cent of the passenger capacity.

The argument that this train is an inter-city train is not tenable because Kerala is more or less a continuous city. The number of passengers boarding the train from Changanacherry, Chengannur or Varkela is not less than those boarding from Kottayam or Quilon.

I also wish to bring to the notice of the Government that this train passes through the districts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Alleppey and Quilon. It has halts at Kottayam and Quilon districts but not at Pathanamthitta and Alleppey districts. There is no reason to discriminate against these districts.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to allow halts of Vanchinad Express at Changanacherry, Thiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikkara, Kayamkulam and Varkela in Kerala.

(iii) Need for early completion of West Coast Waterways work In Kerala

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): The development of waterways in the country deserves a new and radical

approach. The National Transport Policy Committee has declared three national waterways for speedy implementation. They are Ganga-Bhageerathy-Hooghly, Brahmaputra system and west coast canal-Kottayam-Kottappuram waterways along with the Champakkara canal, Kallam and Udyogmandal canal. Though the decision was to take up the west coast canal without delay, adequate attention has not been paid to it till now. This canal has to be deepened and widened. The Night Navigational facilities have also to be promoted. The construction of mechanical terminal facilities at Kottappuram, Cochin, Vaikom, Alapuzha, Kayamkulam, Chavara, Kottam etc. should be given top priority.

Sir, out of Rs. 250 crores allocated for this work in the Eighth Five Year Plan, only Rs. 55 crores have been utilised. Considering the cheapness of water transport and other advantages, I request the Central Government that this west coast canal work should be completed at the earliest as a time-bound programme.

(iv) Need to provide concessions to industries for Industrial Development of Bundelkhand Region

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Bundelkhand region which falls in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is quite backward from the view point of industrial development. In the absence of strong industrial infrastructure 18 districts of this region are economically very weak. 60 per cent population of this region belongs to the labour class and they do not own any property. Bundelkhand had enormous natural