

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to fulfill the justified demand for setting up zonal railway headquarters in Bihar.

(vii) Need to issue licences to Scheduled Tribe People for setting up Petrol Pumps in Keonjhar District in Orissa

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Sir, Keonjhar, in Orissa is a tribal area. For the last five years, petrol pump licences have not been issued to ST people in this area, whereas such licences are being given to people belonging to general category. This has resulted in great resentment among the STs for the last several years. They have protested against this. I would, therefor, request the Government to allot at least two petrol pumps for Keonjhar district immediately so that the resentment among STs could be mitigated.

(viii) Need to rehabilitate Tribals displaced due to Simlipal National Park and release allocated funds for Bio-sphere Sanctuary immediately

KUMARI SHSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj): The Simlipal National park, the most lengthiest, thickest, forest at Mayurbhanj in Orissa which had been declared as bio-sphere sanctuary is a famous tourist place. This forest consists of a National Park – Ram Trith (Jashipur). Besides this, Chahla, Nawana Upper Borokamula and Meghasani are places full of scenery which attract not only national but international tourists to. But there is no road up to the highest point-Kairburn, which is 11.45 KMs causing tremendous difficulties to the tourists.

Though this forest was full of tigers, leopards, elephants and other wild animals, the strength of all these beautiful animals is diminishing.

In 1980 this forest was declared National Park. Earlier it was declared project tiger and sanctuary in 1973 and 1979 respectively.

While declaring it as National Park, the tribal people of the area were asked to leave their places with the assurances that they would be rehabilitated somewhere else but have not been rehabilitated so far. An amount of Rs.30 lakh earmarked for rehabilitation programme is lying unutilised for a long time.

The tiger project is located at Jashipur while its office functions from Baripada, its District Headquarter which is 120 KMs away from this area. The office should be shifted to Jashipur for convenience of the tourists.

Although it has been declared bio-sphere sanctuary, the funds allocated for the purpose are not released. I request the Central Government to take up the matter and rehabilitate the tribal people without any further delay. The amount allocated should be released for the bio-sphere sanctuary for the proper protection of wild life and the beautification of National Park.

14.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.*