

Act. The Government intends to give the Sanctuary legal status of a national park, but this will be possible if the entire area is kept out of mining operation. Otherwise the sanctuary will be turned into a barren land and the entire eco-system will be disturbed and destroyed. Besides, the inmates of the sanctuary, a large number of migratory birds, come every year to Simlipal as they find the sanctuary very safe place to stay. It is, therefore, necessary to stop mining operation altogether. The mining operation is also not economical.

Hence, I urge the Government to prevail upon the State Government of Orissa, to stop the mining operation inside the Simlipal Forest.

- (ii) **Need to provide reservation facility at Seoni Railway Station and also to introduce a Super-fast train from Jabalpur to New Delhi via Beena**

[*Translation*]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the headquarters of my Lok Sabha constituency, Seoni, is connected by the metre-gauge railway line. In order to travel to other parts of the country, one is supposed to take the train from Nagpur (Maharashtra) or Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh). Reservation quota from Seoni on the trains leaving from Nagpur and Jabalpur to Delhi-Bombay-Calcutta-Madras etc. should be fixed and the reservation should be made at the Seoni Railway Station itself. The public has been making a demand for it since long. The members of the D.R.U.C.C. have also made this demand at the meeting. The representatives of the people have also written a letter to the hon. Minister, but no progress has been made in this direction so far. So, there is great resentment in the area. A delegation of the Members of Parliament

has met the hon. Minister in connection with starting a new superfast train from Jabalpur to New Delhi via Bina, but despite their meeting, the new train has not been started. This has caused great public resentment. Therefore, an action on both the matters should be taken in the public interests at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to consider the proposals of Maharashtra State regarding transmission of Gas from Bombay High to North India**

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim): I wish to raise the following matter under rule 377.

It is learnt that Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and ONGC are working on a proposal for diversion of the additional availability of gas from Bombay High and other Western off-shore area to Hazira for onward transmission in North India. Under these circumstances, I would urge the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to consider the proposals of Maharashtra State also:

- (1) To withhold consideration of all proposals involving transport of excess gas to Hazira.
- (2) To declare Usar, District Raigad (Maharashtra State) as the site for the setting up of a second gas terminal immediately.
- (3) Afford the Government of Maharashtra an opportunity to present a more viable alternative for reduction of gas flaring at Bombay High and for more effective utilization in a shorter time span of the gas likely to be available.