

Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Calcutta sectors were withdrawn by the Vayudoot authorities in December 1986 and September 1989 respectively. The main reason for withdrawal of services was attributed to inadequate number of aircrafts. The paucity of aircrafts cannot be justification for such withdrawal completely from Orissa. This has adversely affected the movement of the foreign tourists, travelling public and businessmen in the State. It has also hampered the development of tourism potential in the State immensely.

Hence, I request the Central Government for expeditious restoration of Vayudoot services in Bhubaneswar-Jeypore-Vizag and Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Calcutta sectors. I further urge that daily Indian Airlines flights be introduced between Bhubaneswar and New Delhi with immediate effect.

12.06 hrs.

(ii) Need to provide more Radio and Doordarshan facilities at Samalpur, Orissa

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): The western Orissa is lagging far behind several regions of the country in respect of Radio and Doordarshan facilities. Apart from a full fledged T.V. Studio Complex, there have been demands for the opening of an office of the Press Information Bureau and a Staff Training Institute and separate Regional News set up for All India Radio at Sambalpur. Unfortunately, these demands have not been fulfilled so far. There is no dearth of land around Sambalpur for the establishment of these offices. If a Staff Training Institute is set up for All India Radio and Doordarshan at Sambalpur, the staff working in various Radio Stations in Western Orissa will be greatly benefited. They will not have to go to far off places like Calcutta or Delhi for undergoing training.

At present, the regional news bulletins of Cuttack AIR Station are relayed by

Sambalpur and Jaypore AIR Stations. That is why the regional news bulletins are not clearly audible in these stations. Therefore, there is a need to open a news set up exclusively for Sambalpur.

It, therefore, request the Central Government that the office of the Press Information Bureau, Training College for AIR and Doordarshan staff and Regional News set up be established at Sambalpur without any further delay.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to improve the lot of Bidi workers in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no main industry in Sagar region and the labourers do not have even agriculture work throughout the year there. Majority of the people live below the poverty line and large number of people are engaged in Bidi industry for their livelihood. Therefore, the Government should take concrete steps to ensure that minimum wages are paid to these workers as per the Minimum Wages Act and to raise their standard of living and provide better health services to these people immediately for the proper development of this area. Majority of the people living in this area belong to scheduled castes.

Keeping in view the interests of the Bidi workers and to save them from exploitation, Government should constitute Inspection Committees and launch a special drive on priority basis to improve their lot.

(iv) Need for construction of a Railway bridge on river Ganga at Digha Pahleghat, Bihar

SHRI LAL BABU RAI (Chhapra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the