

Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Calcutta sectors were withdrawn by the Vayudoot authorities in December 1986 and September 1989 respectively.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

[Sh. Lal Babu Rai]

need for constructing a Railway bridge in Digha Pahlejghat, Bihar. This would link north Bihar and South Bihar through Railways. There is a long standing demand for the construction of a railway bridge on river Ganga at Digha Phalejghat, Patna, Bihar. But till today the bridge has not been constructed. Railway has its land on both sides of the river and there also exists a railway line there. Since there is no railway link between south Bihar and north Bihar, transportation of coal and other such things is very costly and a lot of difficulty is also experienced in their transportation.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to make arrangements for the construction of a railway bridge on Ganga at Digha Pahlejghat in Patna in the public interest.

[English]

(v) Need to fix statutory minimum price for sugarcane at Rs. 39 per quintal

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vajayawada): Sir, the Union Government has recently announced the revised statutory minimum price for sugarcane for the current season as Rs. 31/- per quintal at 8.5 per cent recovery. The Government has also enhanced the issue price of sugar from Rs. 6.90 to Rs. 8.30 per kg. It has also made change by reducing the quantity of levy sugar from 45 to 40 bags. The sugar factory managements will be getting additional profit by way of Bhargava formula as they are permitted to sell 60 bags in the free sale market as against only 35 bags as at the inception of this additional price sharing Bhargava formula. The costs of inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, diesel, electricity charges, water rates, harvesting and transport charges have all increased enormously during the last year. I, therefore request the Government to fix Rs. 39/- per

quintal statutory minimum price for sugarcane at 8.5 per cent recovery to meet the increased cost of its cultivation and pass on 70 percent of the additional profit earned by the sugar factories to the cane growers share instead of 50 percent allowed at present.

(vi) Need to provide adequate funds to Madhya Pradesh Government for early completion of underground drainage scheme at Jabalpur

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Sir, open drains in Jabalpur, which is a developing town with a population around 1.2 million and with several Central Undertakings including ordinance factories, Universities, a seat of the High Court and big business and industrial centres are a matter of serious concern from the point of view of sanitation. Jabalpur continues to suffer from perennial onslaughts of diseases like malaria, diarrhoea and cholera.

The problem of sanitation in the drainage system in Jabalpur continues to hang fire. It is understood that the Government have sanctioned an underground drainage scheme for the city, estimated to cost around Rs. 77 to 78 crores a few years back. It might escalate to well above Rs. 100 crores, even if it is taken up for implementation at the earliest. Despite this sanction, the scheme remains on paper for want of funds, which the State Government is expected to raise.

While the need for providing proper underground drainage to Jabalpur cannot be over-emphasized, it might be difficult for the State Government to find resources for funding the same, even though it is presently under Central Rule. In the circumstances, I would urge on the Central Government either to fund the project through Central grants or take up the issue for funding it with the World Bank assistance.