

[Translation]

**SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE (VILASPUR) :** Mr Chairman, Sir, a local train runs between Vilaspur and sahdol in which traders and daily passengers travel. This rail service has been discontinued recently as a result of which people from cross section of the society are faced with hardships. Agitation as also going on in order to resume this rail service. The development works of the cities like Kota, Belgamna Khondri, Khunsara, Pandara Road and Anuppur of this route are suffering immensely. Electrification of Vilaspur-Kathi line has been completed. The hon Rail Minister had given an assurance that this rail service will be resumed after the completion of this line electrification. So respecting the people's sentiments, we urge upon the Government that the said rail service should resumed at the earliest. Simultaneously, a halt should be provided at Pandara Road for Hirakund Express which runs between Nizamuddin-Sambalpur.

(iv) **NEED TO RETAIN ONGC OFFICE IN DEGRADUN, U. P.**

[Translation]

**MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (GARHWAL) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have come to know through newspapers and other mediums that the Government of India is contemplating to shift ONGC office from Dehradun to some other place. In this context, the apprehension of public has further strengthened because the number of officers and employees working in ONGC office in Dehradun has been curtailed.

ONGC office has its own importance for Dehradun. Such rumours have created great resentment among public and people are very much agitated. I have raised this issue earlier also and the Minister of Petroleum had given a written assurance that this office would not be shifted.

I request for an assurance from the Government to retain ONGC office in Dehradun.

(v) **NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL REMAINS AT TAMESHWAR NATH, KHALILABAD AND KOPIA IN U. P.**

**SHRI ASTBUHA PRASAD SHUKLA (KHALILABAD) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tameshwar Nath under Khalilabad development block in district Basti of Uttar Pradesh is a place of historical and religious importance. On the one hand, there is a Shivalinga for those who believe in Hindu religion and on the other hand, several evidences have come in the light which reveal that at this very place Lord Buddha had

renounced the worldly pleasure by giving up his royal attire and regal chariot after getting his head shaved. For last many years a fair is being organised at this very place on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Thousands of religious Hindus, Buddhists and other people come to see this fair.

Besides this, at Kopia under Khalilabad development block in district Basti of Uttar Pradesh, several such evidences have come to light which prove that it was the actual Kapilvastu. A Buddhistic tope on the right side of the pond at this place further strengthens this belief. Similarly, at 'Dharam Singhwa' under 'Satha' development block of district Siddharthnagar, there exists an ancient 'Dharma Stupa' which establish that this place was a religious spot for Buddhists and was known as 'Dharma Sangha'.

The 'Dharma Stupas' on the right side of the ponds at these three places and old bricks, relics and valuable things found at the time of ploughing and mining are of similar nature as are found in Piprahava, Sarnath and Kasaya.

All these three places are the subject of research for historians and the Department Archaeological survey of India. In this respect Archaeological survey of India has submitted its report to the Government.

I urge upon the Government to issue directions to initiate work in accordance with the recommendations of this report.

(vi) **NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM ON RIVER KOSI IN NAVADA DISTRICT IN BIHAR TO CHECK EROSION CAUSED BY IT.**

**SHRI PREM CHAND RAM (NAVADA) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sakari versus mini Kosi river flows through my constituency Navada. The swift current of this river causes soil erosion and as a result of this, irrigated and cultivable land is destroyed every year. Along with it, every year cultivable land is destroyed due to flood in mini-Kosi river. If a dam is constructed on this river, it will provide irrigation facility to thousand acres of land which will increase agricultural production in this backward area. Besides, construction of dam on Sakari versus Kosi river will help in generation of hydro-power, which will provide relief to this backward area.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to take urgent steps for construction of a dam on Sakari river so that it could be constructed at the earliest and people of this backward area could be relieved of their problems.