

Nhava Sheva Port is extremely important in order to relieve port congestion in the country and should not be delayed unduly.

Also, the need for a port with deep draft facilities that can receive large bulk of cargo ship of 60,000 tonnes and over is understood to have been gone into by the Committee of National Transport Policy that was constituted by the Planning Commission under the chairmanship of Shri B. D. Pande. This Committee has since submitted its report. From the report, it is seen that the Committee has made out a very strong case for taking up the work of Nhava Sheva Port on a priority basis.

It is learnt that recently the Ministry of Transport and Shipping have been asked to take action on the Nhava Sheva Port till the objections of environmentalists are sorted out. Because of this, the action to commission a detailed project report has not been initiated by the Ministry. Apparently, environmentalists have no objection to the Nhava Sheva Project as such, but their objection is to the location of supply base of ONGC at Nhava.

It is, therefore, necessary to speed up the detailed project report and the social cost benefit study. It would also be necessary to set up a separate Nhava Sheva Port Development Authority headed by an Administrator-cum-Engineer with appropriate powers and responsibilities. I, therefore, very strongly urge upon the Government of India to immediately vacate the said stay so that the Ministry of Shipping can commission the project report soon.

(iv) NEED FOR DECLARING KODAIKANAL, PACHAIKUMATCHI OF MADURAI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU AND IDUKKI DISTRICT OF KERALA AS HILL AREAS

SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Pariyakulam): The districts of Mikhir and North Cachar in Assam, the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, Uttarkasi,

Clamalai and some other places in Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling in West Bengal, all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, all districts of Himachal Pradesh, all districts of Nagaland and all districts of Manipur, have been declared as Hill areas under Article 366 of our Constitution and they get the necessary infra-structure facilities.

But Kodaikanal and Pachaikumachi Hill which lie in my Parliamentary Constituency Pariyakulam and Idukki district of Kerala have not been declared as "Hill areas" which need the special attention of the Central Government.

Besides Kodaikanal being a tourist resort, the foreign exchange-earners like Coffee, Potato and Plantains are grown in abundance. The surrounding villages of Kodaikanal do not have communication facilities. Adivasis are living in Kodaikanal area. Pachaikumatchi Hills produce fine variety of tea.

More than 50,000 people of my constituency live in Idukki district which produces Coffee, tea, cardamom, pepper and some other spices which earn foreign exchange.

These places are under-developed. The people in the Hilly regions experience a lot of hardship and suffering.

Unless the Government declares Kodaikanal, Pachaikumatchi of Madurai district of Tamil Nadu and Idukki district of Kerala as Hill Areas, there will be no development of infra-structure, rail and road transport for the economic growth of these backward areas. I demand a statement from the hon'ble Minister in this regard.

(v) REPORTED SHORTAGE OF CEMENT IN UTTAR PRADESH

श्री जीनूल बहार (गाजीपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय नियम 377 के अधीन मैं एक लोक-सहृदय का प्रश्न रख रहा हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि सरकार इस पर एक बतव्य देगी ।