

Ramzan. It is feared that due to the short span of time available to the Haj pilgrims their number is bound to be reduced considerably because as per the present arrangement usual number of pilgrims cannot be shifted to the Saudi Arab. It would, therefore, be necessary for the Government to arrange more ships so that usual number of pilgrims can go there. At present only the services of two ships are being utilised for Haj pilgrims. More ships will now be required for this purpose. Apart from the ships, a large number of pilgrims will have to be accommodated by the air services.

I urge upon the Government to ensure that the number of pilgrims going for Haj pilgrimage should not be reduced because of the ban imposed by the Saudi Arabian Government. The necessary arrangement should be made to carry the traditional number of pilgrims to Saudi Arab.

(v) NEED FOR MAINTAINING SENIORITY OF ENGINEERS FROM EX-HYDERABAD STATE TRANSFERRED TO MAHARASHTRA

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Sir, under the States Reorganisation Act, the Government staff was assured of their postings on the same post they had held earlier in the States that were allotted. Unfortunately, in the case of engineers from ex-Hyderabad State, persons who were directly recruited as Class II officers by the ex-Hyderabad State Public Service Commission were denied their seniority and promotions. These engineers filed a writ petition No. 112-114 of 1968 in the Supreme Court of India which also gave a judgment in their favour on 29th September, 1969. All the efforts of these engineers to get their grievances redressed in spite of the Supreme Court judgement have failed.

The Central Government should direct the Government of Maharashtra to do justice in the light of the Supreme Court Judgement to the engineers who have been transferred to their State due to States Reorganisation Act.

(vi) NEED FOR REMOVAL OF ANOMALY IN THE DATES OF HOLIDAYS FOR DUSSEHRA AND DIWALI IN 1982

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The year 1982 is galore with interesting discussions and uncertainties due to certain astronomical and astral combinations. One such incident has created a strange anomaly. A stellar event, occurring after 19 years, has laid to a major controversy concerning the correct dates for Dussehra and Diwali. Based on the Central Government Almanac (Panchang-Patra), the Government has declared September 27 and October 16 as holidays for the festivals of Dussehra and Diwali. It is a well-known fact that the Indian Astronomical Ephemeris compiled some years back by the Calendar Reform Committee has no following, nor public acceptance due to the basic differences on the issue of Sayana and Nirayana calculations. This dialogue has been there for over 70 years, since the beginning of this century and even during the time of Lokamanya Tilak, who tried to popularise the Tilak Panchang.

Over 200 famous astrologers, representatives of Shankaracharyas, Dharma-Shastrie and Pandits from all over the country met at Ahmedabad last year and decided the issue in favour of October 27 and November 15 as the proper dates for Dussehra and Diwali festivals. The State Government of Gujarat, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Orissa and West Bengal have accepted the verdict of All India Astrologers and Pandits taken at Ahmedabad under the auspices of the Veda-Shala Organisation.

If the Government, therefore, does not reconsider its decision and change the date for these festival holidays, people of Delhi and some Northern States will celebrate a different Dussehra and Diwali, while the country will be witnessing two Dussehra and Diwalis. I call upon the Government to resolve this issue as early as possible and remove the anomaly. The