

adequate number of residential schools for educational development in the tribal areas of Orissa has become impossible due to constraint of resources.

The existing ceiling prescribed by Government of India in respect of construction of hostels for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes students at present in the plains area is Rs. 4,630/- and in respect of hilly areas, the ceiling is Rs. 7,600/- per student. But the prescribed maximum limits for the hilly areas and the plain areas are inadequate.

It is not possible to take up construction work with this amount as the cost of construction materials, such as wood, cement and steel has gone up in the last few years. Therefore, I demand that the prescribed limit in respect of the construction of hostel and residential schools under the centrally sponsored scheme should be revised and enhanced to Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- for the plain areas and the hilly areas, respectively.

Government of India is providing assistance to States including Orissa on 50:50 basis for construction of hostels for S.C. and S.T. girls; Similar assistance be provided for the construction of hostels in different States for S.C. and S.T. boys.

(v). Conservation of Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): I invite the attention of the Government of India for the proper conservation of Lord Jagannath Temple at Puri. This is one of the world famous archeological monuments which has been included in the list of Centrally protected monuments. But it is a matter of regret that due attention has not been paid to the

conservation of this temple. The Mukti Mandap in the premises of Puri Temple is in dilapidated condition. The roof has been sustained by wooden props. This caused considerable resentment among the large number of tourists and pilgrims who visit this temple every day. Therefore, immediate repairs of Mukti Mandap is of paramount importance. The main temple continues to leak and sag. The plaster of the temple has been removed but the conservation work has not been done properly. This temple represents ancient culture of Orissa and is famous for its beauty and splendour which attracts a large number of tourists from all over the world. The Government of India earns foreign exchange worth several lakhs of rupees from the foreign tourists who visit this famous temple.

Government of Orissa has been making fervent appeals to the Central Government time and again to take proper conservation measures for this temple. Despite this, no step has been taken so far, for the proper preservation of this monument.

In view of this, I urge the hon. Minister to take immediate steps for repairs and conservation of the Mukti Mandap. Conservation work in the main temple should be taken up without any further delay.

(vi) Need for controlling illicit felling of trees in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI T. S. NEGI (Tehri Garhwal): During the past 33 years or so the forest cover in Himachal Pradesh has shrunk to about 19 per cent of the State's total area as against over 39 per cent in 1948 when Himachal Pradesh emerged as a separate administrative unit. Vandalisation of its woods has been systematic and relentless. If contractors enjoying