

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

political patronage continue their depredations, the time is not far off when the entire State will be denuded of greenery. Already parts of Himachal, once covered with row upon row of swaying trees, present a desolate look. Even the trees stumps have been burnt or dug out to destroy the evidence that a lush green forest once exists on the mountain side. Forest Department officials not only help the contractors in illicit felling of trees but also provide them expert advice in smuggling timber out of the State through safe routes.

This calls for immediate corrective action.

(vii) Severe drought and famine conditions in some parts of Andhra Pradesh

PROF. N. G. RANGA (GUNTUR): Once again, most parts of Rayalaseema and large areas of Telangana in Andhra Pradesh are in the grip of the periodical but severe drought and consequent widespread famine. Our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi has expressed her deep anguish over the sufferings of the people after two days of touring in those areas, talking to the people and discussing about the incidence of distress caused by failure of crops, large-scale unemployment among agricultural workers and heavy losses sustained by peasants.

She exclaimed in her statement to Pressmen that 'the Nation has to think in terms of a long term solution for fighting drought, which seemed to be occurring perennially in these areas'.

I wish to draw the attention of the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission that many a time over the decades, many Members of Parliament had drawn the attention of the nation and the Government thro-

ugh Parliament, to the terrible plight of these drought-prone areas and a definite proposal for the establishment of Rayalaseema Development Board or Commission was discussed in Parliament and the Government was seriously considering the establishment of such an Authority.

I request the concerned Ministers and Planning Commission to give the highest priority, at least now, to that proposal, in the light of the observations made by the Prime Minister herself and hasten to establish such a protection-cum-Development Authority for the drought-prone areas of Rayalaseema, Telangana and Kalinga, in Andhra Pradesh in the first instance and, subsequently for similar areas in Rajasthan, Orissa, Baster, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Let Government give institutional and practical shape, with adequate financial support, to the suggestions made by the Prime Minister at the earliest.

(viii) Reappraisal of Nutritious meal Scheme for Schools in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): The Indian delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO being convened next month is likely to commend to all developing countries for adoption the Tamil Nadu's nutritious meal scheme as a sure means for achieving the goal of universalisation of primary education and eradication of illiteracy.

But, all the school teachers working under 375 Panchayat Unions of Tamil Nadu have given notice of DHARNA on 6th November 1982 and their decision to go on indefinite strike from 1st January, 1983 if they are not relieved from the duties of buying vegetables and provisions and then cooking and serving food throughout the school hours instead of devoting themselves to teaching the children. Their