[Shri Bheekhabhai]

(7) DTC buses must stop within the specified space for which necessary markings on the bus stands must be undertaken immediately.

(8) Traffic rule breakers must be dealt with more stringently.

(9) More mini buses, matadors may be encouraged in place of big sized buses.

(10) Adequate number of trained traffic control personnel on regular timings may have to be ensured.

I am sure if the above suggestions taken care of immediately, traffic problem in Delhi would ease a lot.

(iii) MEASURES FOR INCREASED GROWTH OF ORCHIDS IN FORESTS OF NORTH-EAST INDIA

SHRIMATI GURBINDER KAUR BRAR (Faridkot) : Under Rule 377, I am making the following statement :

I would like to bring to the attention of the House that rare specimens of orchids in the forest of the North-East, their exclusive habitat, continue to find their way out of the country in violation of the International Convention to which India is a signatory. The Convention handbook signed by 43 major countries of the world which participated in the Convention on the International Trade in endangered species of wild Fauna and Flora (Cities 1973) specifically includes the entire family of orchids as a variety of plants which cannot be exported from one country to another. Inspite of this, a large variety of rare orchids normally growing in the Khasi Hills and the Himalayan Hills around Darjeeling and Kalimpong, are being systematically exported out of the country.

The problem is compounded by the fact that the orchids multiply rather slowly (mainly through vegetative means) and the pace of plunder is much quicker than that of natural replenishment. According to the Botanical survey of India 28 varieties of orchids are included in the list of 134 most threatened plant species in Indian Venda Coerulea (Blue Vanda) no longer exist in its traditional habitat in the Khasi Hills. To make things worse, the local inhabitants in these areas are being exploited economically, as they are paid a pittance for the rare plants which eventually fetch exorbitant prices in the International market.

It is understood that a long term project has been initiated by the North Eastern Council for preservation of orchids. As part of this project the team proposes to perfect techniques of growing orchids with seeds and if this can be done in large numbers, then the trade in orchids can be legalised to earn foreign Exchange for the country. This project needs to be encouraged by extending all possible help in the form of finance and expert botanists who can make success of the proposed project.

(iv) INTRODUCTION OF A NEW SUPER-FAST TRAIN BETWEEN HOWRAH AND BHUVANESHWAR.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Sir, Railways have planned for introduction of a super-fast express train between Bhuvaneshwar and Howrah in their corporate plan. The passenger traffic has been steadily increasing in this area due to the commencement of new industrial growth centres in large number. The Government of India have taken decision to set up a steel plant at DAITARI and a fertiliser plant at Paradeep of Orissa.

A Charge Chrome plant has been set up at Bhadrak and two other such plants have been approved by the Government for setting up near Anandpur and DAITARI. Apart from this, a synthetic Polyster Plant at Bhuvaneshwar, an industrial