

[Sh. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

The administration has put a ban on industries which are increasing pollution but the ring road, far away from Taj Mahal, which would serve as a by pass, has not been constructed so far. This is causing regular damage to the beauty and life of Taj Mahal.

Therefore, I would like to request that the by pass linking the three national highways be constructed immediately so that Taj Mahal is saved from pollution caused by vehicles and the legacy of past is not destroyed.

- (v) **Need to have Measures to Prevent Railway accidents in the Country**

[English]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): There is a spurt in the railway accidents in the country. During the last two months itself, there were three major accidents as details below:-

- (a) The accident between Warangal and Kazipet was due to sabotage by the Naxalites in Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) The accident to the Karnataka Express was due to the falling of boulders on the track after heavy rainfall in Karnataka.
- (c) The accident to Narasapur Express which derailed near Nadikudi in Andhra Pradesh.

There were many more accidents in the recent past in the country. Many people were killed and crores of rupees worth of railway property damaged in these accidents.

I request the hon. Minister for Railways to thoroughly enquire into the reasons for these accidents and also order a probe into various acts of omission and commission. I also order appeal for the replacement of the worn out tracks which are very obsolete and

laid four to five decades ago. Further, there is immediate need to replace the coaches and rakes which are being put to overuse and made to run thousands of kilometres daily without adequate repairs and maintenance. The coaches, rakes and the wagons should have through periodical check up.

- (vi) **Need to develop mica industry in Kodarma Bihar and merge MITCIO with MMTC**

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Sir, Kodarma was once famous for mica industry and this mica used to be exported to foreign countries. About four and half lakh employees/workers were engaged in this industry who were leading a prosperous life. But now only 2,500 workers are engaged in this industry and the rest have been rendered unemployed, as result of which, there is mass unemployment in this area.

Government established MITCO to promote this industry. But this organisation is also running at a heavy loss and it is going to retrench a large number of workers and clerical staff on a phase-wise basis. There was a proposal to merge MITCO with MMTC but nothing came out of it.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take measures for the development of Mica industry in the internationally famous Kodarma area and to merge MITCO with MMTC at the earliest for the benefit of employees at large.

- (vii) **Need to bring the per capita plan investment in Assam hill area sub plan at par with that of other hill states of North Eastern region.**

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District): Sir, The Sixth Schedule areas of Assam, namely the Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts are covered by a separate Hill Plan Budget. The other erstwhile Sixth Schedule areas of North East have been upgraded to separate States of Meghalaya and Mizoram since 1971 and are cov-

ered by their respective. State Plan Budgets. Now the per capita plan investment in the hill area sub-plan of Assam is 200 to 300 per cent less than that of other hill States of North East. The State of Sikkim with less than half the population and one-third of the area of Assam hill district receives a per capita plan investment which is double that of Assam hill areas. So also is the case with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

This has led to extreme backwardness in terms of literacy rate, revenue generation, health care index, poverty and other vital aspects in the hill districts of Assam. Therefore, as the sole representative of the two hill districts of Assam, I urge upon the Government to change the policy of plan fund allocations immediately so as to bring the per capita plan investment in Assam hill area sub-plan at least at par with that of other hill States of North East. Thank you.

- (viii) **Need to fix floor price for pepper produced in Kerala at Rs. 6000/- quintal and other measures for the benefit of pepper cultivahior**

SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW (Idukki): The small pepper cultivators in the country are reeling under a terrible situation. India's production of pepper is mainly concentrated in Kerala. 98 per cent of the pepper is produced in the State. The price of pepper which was Rs. 6,000. per quintal three years back is now only Rs. 3,000. since last three years the cost of all inputs and services have more than trebled. In addition to this slump in price, vast areas of pepper cultivation have been totally devastated on an unprecedented scale by epidemic diseases. As a result the poor peasants are on the verge of total ruination.

Immediate steps should be taken to fix a floor price of Rs. 6,000 per quintal for pepper. Research work should also be done for finding out and preventing this killing disease on a war footing. Compensation for the losses already suffered, aids and assistance for replanting the ruined areas

and rehabilitation of the thrown out peasants must be arranged without delay. A Pepper Corporation of India to look after all the interests of the cultivation and farmers must be set up immediately. I urge upon the Government to take these steps at the earliest.

13.24 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till twenty five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION *RE* APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF MEGHALAYA AND MOTION *RE* REVOCATION OF PROCLAMATION INRELATION TO THE STATE OF MEGHALAYA-*CONTD*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Purkayastha will continue.

14.28 hrs.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir while I was discussing yesterday regarding Meghalaya, I mentioned that the Speaker of the House who is the philosopher, guide and custodian of the Assembly could solve the problem very easily. But without solving the problem he rather made it more difficult.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Speaker of the Meghalaya Assembly who belongs to the congress Party did it. It is also a fact that as soon the Speaker is elected, he becomes a non-party man and his activities are non-partisan and that is expected everywhere and that is done everywhere. But, Sir, in the