

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): Sir, Telegraph and Telephone systems in rural areas of Assam are not at all working satisfactorily particularly, in Barak valley. Small telephone exchanges serve only local needs but trunk calls are virtually impossible. In several cases telephones have been provided with local panchayats, but these remain totally useless for all practical purposes. Same is the case with telegraph which is also as useless as telephones in rural post offices, specially in barak valley. One telegram takes at least five days to reach its destination because it is delivered just like an ordinary letter.

So, I urge upon the Communication Ministry to look into the matter urgently.

SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN (Vishnupur): Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance in this House.

There is a place known as Joyrambati which is adjacent to Sihar Gram Panchayat of Kotulpur Block under District Bankura. Joyrambati is the holy birth place of "Sree Sree Ma Sarada Devi."

A good number of tourists visit this place from various corners of the country. Even foreign tourists also visit this Holy place throughout the whole year. Keeping in view the importance of this place as a tourists attraction, the people of the areas are facing a lot of difficulties when any criminal case takes place in the area and the inhabitants of this Gram Panchayat area are to go to Kotulpur Police Station to inform the authorities which is at a distance of 13 Kms., from Joyrambati.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to kindly provide the telephone facilities immediately so that the people of the area could contact the Police authorities in case

of any criminal offence taking place there. It may also be added that Deshra -Koalpara post office which is only 4 Kms from Joyrambati is equipped with this facility and there would not be any difficulty for Telecom Department to provide this facility there. Thank you.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKAT-ESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, this is a matter of urgent public importance. Minimum basic platform facilities are lacking at Modukuru railway station in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in South Central Railway Division. There is no railway platform at all at this station. Passengers, particularly women, children and old persons, are finding it very difficult to board the trains in the limited halting time. There were instances, when several passengers fell down both while boarding and alighting the trains, got injured and even lost life.

Several times the issue was represented to the railway authorities by the passenger public but to no avail. I too had brought this matter to the notice of hon. Minister of State for Railways and the Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada for considering the issue of raising the platforms at Modukuru railway station, but with no response. I urge upon the Government to kindly look into this urgent public inconvenience and arrange raising the platform immediately.

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Sir, in Tanjore, we have Baddy, Banana and Coconut Research Centre for the past 35 years. Tanjore is the largest paddy-growing centre in the South with nearly 14 lakhs of acres. With all this, we do not have an agricultural university in Tanjore which is long due. The Government must set up an agricultural university in Tanjore for the people's benevolence in Tanjore. With indigenous technology and native thinking, we can keep our country free from scientific