माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आपके माध्यम से इस निवेदन के साथ आकर्षित करता हूं कि अविलम्ब उचित कार्यवाही हो और जिन लोगों ने अपना सर्वस्व दे कर मुल्क को आजाद किया आज वे अपने आपको असहाय महसूस कर रहे हैं। यह देश के लिए और शासन के लिए कलंक की बात है।

आशा है मंत्री महोदय अविलम्ब इस पर कार्यवाही कर उन स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम सैनानियों को राहत देंगे जो मुल्क की आजादी के लिए अपना सर्वस्व बर्बाद कर चुके हैं।

(ii) NEED TO PRESERVE FORESTS OF WYNAD IN KERALA.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, I wish to raise a very important issue concerning the large-scale deforestation in Wynad in Karala.

Wynad used to have a salubrious climate owing mainly to the abundance of ever-green forests. Mahatma Gandhi had once described Wynad as the Kashmir of Kerala. It is lying adjacent to Mudumala in Tamilnadu and Bandipur in Karnataka. In 1973, the Government of Kerala declared it a wild-life sanctuary. The fertile soil and high rainfall in this area helped the high rate of yield of plantation crops like coffee, pepper, orange etc.

But, today the whole scenario has changed. The salubrious climate of Wynad has changed. It is becoming hotter and hotter every year. The natural streams and fountains are slowly becoming dry. At this rate, before long this place will become totally inhospitable.

The main cause of this alarming situation is the large-scale indiscriminate deforestation that has taken place in Wynad. Today, the plantation crops are dying out due to the attack of some pests caused by the change in the climate pattern. Drinking water is getting scarce as the perennial water source is drying up. The Noolphuzha river, which used to flood the entire region, is slowly drying up. At this rate, the proposed Noolphuzha Project, which is supposed to irrigate Noolpuzha, Nenmeni and Sultan Battery Panchayats, will have to be abandoned.

The State Government is trying to plant teak and eucalyptus in these areas. But these trees will aggravate the problem as the existing water source in their vicinity will also dry up.

Wynad forests are a treasure house of rare valuable herbs of great medicinal value. Deforestation has destroyed most of these herbs.

In these circumstances, it is our duty to protect these forests if we want to survive. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to issue necessary instructions to the State Government so that the deforestation is put to an end and the precious forests are preserved.

(iii) NEED FOR A RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN PHALODI AND KOLIYAT TO ESTABLISH A LINK BETWEEN JAISALMER AND DELHI.

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) : बाड़मेर एवं जैसलमेर लोक सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र 70,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर में फैला हुआ है। उक्त क्षेत्र केरल प्रांत से दुगुना एवं हरियाणा प्रांत से ड्योढ़ा क्षेत्रफल की दृष्टि से है।

संचार एवं आवागमन की दृष्टि से यह क्षेत्र देश का सब से पिछड़ा क्षेत्र है जिस की केन्द्र सरकार एवं राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा लगातार अवहेलना की जा रही है।

जसलमेर एवं बाड़मेर पश्चिमी सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के महत्वपूर्ण नगर है। जैसलमेर पर्यटन की दृष्टि से देश में बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण स्थान