

heart of Rajasthan. It has a population of about 4 lakh. There is the place where Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati attained 'Nirvana'. Besides, the holy shrine of the famous Sufi saint, Khawja Sahib and the renowned pilgrim centre of Pushkar where lakhs of Indian and foreign visitors come for 'darshana' and attain spiritual gain, are also situated there. Ajmer has a peculiar identity as a tourist place also.

Such a famous city is still devoid of an air link and as a result, the tourists visiting Ajmer and Pushkar have to first land at Jaipur by air and thereafter proceed to Ajmer by road. The road journey causes them a lot of inconvenience. The famous army cantonment, Nasserabad and the industrial towns of Byawar and Kishanganj are also situated near Ajmer.

Hence, keeping all these facts in view, Ajmer deserves to be air-linked. The Government of Rajasthan has even allotted land for the aerodrome at Saradhana village near Ajmer and the Airport Authority of India has conducted a survey thereof. It is deplorable that an aerodrome has not been constructed at Ajmer so far.

Therefore, I strongly urge upon the Government of India to construct an aerodrome without further delay at the historic city of Ajmer, the heart of Rajasthan and link it with other air routes of the country.

[English]

(ii) Need to Construct Bridge at Kuzhithurai on the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, there is an urgent need to replace the very old and dilapidated bridge at Kuzhithurai on the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway. It is posing grave danger to the passengers and vehicular traffic. There are many cracks and holes in it, the basement of the pillars of this bridge is gravely damaged and the supporting temporary angular pillars subsequently provided are also damaged by the river water. So at any moment it may collapse. Such an occurrence would be disastrous. This National Highway is one of the prestigious and busiest roads in the country. Realising all these aspects, the Government have graciously included the construction of a new bridge in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The acquisition work is completed. But it is regrettable to note that steps have not yet been taken for the execution of this very important and urgent work. So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the execution of the work without any further delay.

(iii) Need to implement 15-point programme to protect interests of muslims

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the National Minority Commission may kindly be

urged upon to enquire into the matter of the present position of Waqf property in West Bengal which has been very badly managed causing thereby untold sufferings to the minorities. The Minority Commission may also look into the position of sanctioning to recognition of Madrasas in West Bengal, most of which are yet to get any grant or sanction at a higher grade. The interest of minority cannot be safeguarded unless the 15-Point Programme of Government of India for the Communal Harmony is implemented in every part of India.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to take steps to protect Revali Dam in Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaiserganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an imminent danger of breach in Rawali dam in district Bahraich of Uttar Pradesh. In the event of breach of this dam, constructed on river Ghaghara, more than two lakh families will be rendered homeless and lakhs of hectares of land will be inundated. I urge upon the Government to immediately take preventive measures in order to check the breach in the dam... (Interruptions)..*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Sir, I am on point of order. Under Rule 377 only that statement could be given which is already approved. But the hon. Member has said something which is not a part of his approved statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you. It will not form part of the statement.

(v) Need to construct a railway over bridge in Fatehpur town of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the absence of a railway bridge in district Fatehpur of Uttar Pradesh, the traffic gets jammed causing accidental death to hundreds of people every year.

I urge upon the Government to construct a bridge across the railway line in Fatehpur city.

(vi) Need to give compensation to victims of police firing in Uttarakhand movement

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the following matter of public importance.

As per the High court order, nearly Rs. 36 crore were allocated as compensation to the killed, injured

* Not Recorded.

and victimised Uttarakhand people by the police and the administration during the movement for a separate state of Uttarakhand in 1994. But many victimised and injured Uttarakhandis were devoid of above compensation and got no assistance at all.

I request the Government to conduct an inquiry into the matter and pay compensation to the next of kin of the killed as well as those injured and really victimised.

[English]

(vii) Need to probe into the airdropping of Arms in Purulia

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : On 17 December, 1995 a large quantity of lethal weapons was air-dropped by a foreign plane in Khatanga, Gunedih and Baredih Villages of Jhalda Police Station in the district, Purulia, West Bengal. The recovered weapons were AK 47, AK 56, Rocket-launcher, grenade, hand grenade, 9 M.M. revolvers and huge quantity of ammunition. The area is a part of my constituency which I represent now.

I urge upon the Government to take appropriate action in this regard in public interest.

11.44 hrs.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : I move :

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

The time allotted for this motion is seven hours. Specific time is allotted to all the political parties. You may kindly check it yourselves because I do not want to repeat that.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Before I move a motion of confidence on the floor of the House, I would like to pay my humble tributes to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru whose death anniversary is falling today... (Interruptions)

When I was first elected to this House, Pandit Nehru was the Prime Minister of India at that time. I had seen him at work for several years. In those days I used to sit on that side... (Interruptions) I have not forgotten that side even now. But I used to sit far behind because our number was very small. Today, a change has taken place and BJP has gradually increased its strength and influence and thus first became the main opposition party and now it has emerged as the single largest party in this election. This change did not take place all of a sudden. It reflects the changing process of history.

In the elections held recently, the people have given their mandate. It is high time that we ponder over the mandate seriously. We have emerged as the largest party. We should keep in mind the position obtained by other political parties as well... (Interruptions) The Congress party had 260 members in the House when the Lok Sabha was dissolved. Now their number has gone down to 136. This is due to the mandate given by the people. This mandate should be accepted gracefully. It needs some introspection. Their strength has come down to half. The strength of Left Front has also come down from 57 to 52. In West Bengal their strength has dwindled in terms of votes are the Lok Sabha as well as Legislative Assembly seats. Their strength has also gone down in Bihar... (Interruptions) The strength of Janata Dal in the previous Lok Sabha was 56 from Bihar which has been reduced to 44 now.

The BJP contested Lok Sabha elections in Bihar in alliance with Samta Party and it has got massive success. On the other hand the strength of Congress has gone down not only in Lok Sabha but in several other states also where they have lost people's faith. Other parties have formed their Governments in those states. Why this change has taken place? What does it indicate?... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVAJI KAMBLE (Usmanabad) : Mr. Speaker, please stop him. If this goes on unabated, then nobody will be in a position to speak... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This should also be noticed that the parties which are united together to express lack of confidence against my Government today, had contested the elections on different planks. They contested against one another... (Interruptions) They contested the election by levelling serious allegations against one another. There was no alliance among these parties before the election... (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MAEGHE (Nagpur) : What happened in Punjab.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Even today there is no common programme of these allies. First the Government will be formed and the programme will be devised later on... (Interruptions)