Title: Need to declare Vithal Rukmani Temple at Pandharpur in Sholapur distict, Maharashtra as a Centrally protected monument

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Pandharpur, in the Sholapur District of Maharashtra, is situated in the laps of River Chandra Bhaga and the Temple Vithal Rukmani is on the bank of river Chandra Bhaga.

The temple Vithal Rukmani is being visited by lakhs of pilgrims from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and foreigners, apart from Maharashtra itself, to seek the blessings of Vithal Rukmani. However, these pilgrims are facing great difficulties in the absence of proper arrangement for accommodation, sanitation, etc. Development of this place as a Pilgrimage Centre will benefit both the pilgrims as well as the revenue earnings of the Government.

However, it is learnt that Pandharpur is not a Pilgrimage Centre in the list of the Central Government and hence there is no authority to take care of the needs of pilgrims. It is, therefore, requested that necessary steps may be taken so that Pandharpur is listed in the Pilgrimage Centres list of the Central Government with the allocation of an amount of Rs.50 crore for the development of this pilgrimage centre, in public interest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. Those Members who want to go out may do so quietly.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, how is it possible?… (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It was decided in the Leaders' meeting today in the morning.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the same thing was done yesterday also...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, just now Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was mentioning about it. Have you heard that?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, this is being done week after week...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now that they have decided it, it has to be executed.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, if you want to leave the House, you could do so.

…(*Interruptions*)