

an>

Title:Need to start a Rope Car Service from Mettupalayam to Coonoor.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the blessing of my leader *Amma*, I appeal to the Government of India to start a Rope Car Service from Mettupalayam to Coonoor.

Ooty is famous for its tea. The Tea and Tourism Festival is one of the major tourist attractions in Ooty and the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary also attracts a large number of tourists. There is a huge demand for film shooting in and around Ooty both by the South Indian Film Industry as well as Bollywood and so, Ooty, which is called the queen of Nilgiris, has become filmdom's new Mecca. The Hindi film makers are now shifting locale from Mumbai to Ooty. The annual Tea and Tourism Festival attracts people in huge numbers to Ooty from all over the world.

There is daily tourist flow of about 5,000 people and during the summer season, it increases manifold. The main problem in Nilgiri Hill is frequent landslide. There is only one approach road. Many a time, even due to small problem, the road gets jammed and the lifeline of this hill area is very much affected.

As you are aware, there is a Heritage Train which runs between Mettupalayam and Coonoor and *vice versa*. Many a time, it is unable to undertake its journey due to landslide and technical fault of locomotive. Hence, there is great desperation among tourists, especially foreign tourists. It is worth to mention that there are some environmental clearances for construction of Helipad which is long pending

There are demands from public all over the country, foreign tourists and NRI to construct Rope car/Rope cable service in the model of Switzerland which is capable of carrying 60 persons in a car. The cost is also less compared to the other modes. There is no terrorist problem as our Amma is making the whole Tamil Nadu as a terrorist-free State.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to introduce the ropeway connectivity from Mettupalayam to Coonoor. Thank, you.