

[Sh. V.S. Krishna Iyer]

Every day, hundreds of passengers are travelling between Bangalore and Bombay. Reservations for Udayan Express are not available even if the passengers go there one or two months prior to their journey. Therefore, there is a great demand for the running of another direct train between Bangalore and Bombay. I request the Government to immediately introduce another direct train between Bangalore and Bombay to meet the demand and earn more revenue as the route is commercially viable.

(vii) Need for developing Railway-Communication System in Orissa for overall development of the State

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Indian Railway have played and are playing a vital role in the socio-economic life of our country. The Railway should not perform their functions from commercial point of view only. Their basic philosophy is unity in diversity, national integration, eradication of regional imbalances. Orissa is one of the most backward and under-developed States in spite of rich natural resources, port, minerals of export importance, the main reason being inadequate development of Railway net work which is indispensable for the economic development of a region. According to State-wise, area-wise, population-wise route kilometers, Orissa is far behind. A very low percentage of budget allocation is spent in Orissa. In employment also, the people of Orissa are neglected. Even though it has all important routes and offices of the South-Eastern Railways are situated in Orissa, the head offices are located outside the State. There is every justification for the head offices to be located in the State. Taking all these factors, there is genuine anger and anguish in the minds of the people of Orissa. For long, the State has been deprived of its legitimate claim for the development of Railways. Special attention should be given to create an infrastructure for the economic

development of the State. Planning efforts need to be revamped and reorganised with an integrated approach in a systematic manner. Centenary celebrations of S.E. Railway should be observed in the State of Orissa with full vigour.

(viii) Demand for Legislation to Ban Devadasi System in the Country

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): It is regrettable and a matter of serious concern that about 10,000 girls are converted into Devadasis who are also called jogins in some parts of the country and especially in the border areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

It is the policy of the Government to achieve emancipation of women belonging to lower strata of society. Andhra Pradesh has recently introduced a Bill in the Legislative Assembly to abolish Devadasi system. Karnataka Government has also taken some steps to wipe out this evil tradition. But, these efforts are not enough since the magnitude of this problem is very alarming. It is high time that Central Government comes forward and passes a Legislation to ban Devadasi system in this country and save the life of thousands of unfortunate girls who are forced into the Devadasi system in our country.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to bring forward a comprehensive legislation and put an end to this evil system without any further delay.

12.14 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88-*CONTD.*

Ministry of Defence - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up next item. Further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of

* The speech was originally delivered in Kannada