

[English]

- (iii) Need to recognise the higher course of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education, Pondicherry as equivalent to B.A. and B.Sc. courses of other Universities in the country

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsore): Although Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education at Pondicherry has been recognised by many famous and well reputed Universities like J. N. U., Hyderabad, Usmania, Bombay, Banaras Hindu, Jadavpur, Calcutta, Annamalai Universities as well as by the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, as an equivalent to B.A., B.Sc. and the Ministry of Home Affairs in their Office Memorandum of 14th August, 1962, recognised it as equivalent to the first degree of recognised Indian University, for the purpose of appointment in services and posts under the Central Government but the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, has not yet issued orders approving it as equivalent to B.A. or B.Sc. degree of all the Universities in the country, resulting in utmost difficulties inconveniences and sufferings to the thousands of students in the matter of admission to post graduate course in other universities. The standard of education imparted there and the syllabus and curriculum etc. are much higher than that of any other University in the country. It should have been given the same status, as given to any recognised University. The U. G. C. is also giving regular grants to the school of this institution from time to time, though this institution is not affiliated to the U. G. C. The U. G. C. considered this institution as one of the best of its kind in the country and therefore, released grants from time to time.

I would request the Ministry of Human Resources Development to recognise the higher course of Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education at Pondicherry as equivalent to B.A. and B.Sc. course of all the Universities of the country.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to take urgent necessary steps to convert the manual exchange in Giridih district of Bihar into an automatic exchange.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMED (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I want to inform that Giridih in Bihar still has a manual telephone system. There are more than 300 telephone lines. To convert it into an automatic exchange and to provide dial system to the subscribers, machines have been purchased long ago and they are only to be installed. Approval has also been accorded to provide STD facility and the State Government has allotted land for the tower, but till now neither the exchange has been converted nor tower has been erected. This has caused great difficulty to the people in making calls outside and it has caused great resentment among the local people.

Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate steps in this regard so that machines can be saved from being damaged and difficulties of the people can also be removed.

[English]

- (v) Need to take necessary measures for preservation and exhibition of the relics of Buddhist stupas and other items excavated in Lalitgiri and Udaygiri regions of Cuttack district in Orissa and provide necessary facilities for the tourists.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): The recent excavations in Lalitgiri and Udaygiri Buddhist stupas, a part of Ratanagiri, Udaygiri and Lalitgiri complex also known as 'Pushpagiri Vihar' in Cuttack district of Orissa have again underlined the importance of conservation and preservation of these historical monuments. At Lalitgiri a large 'stupa' has been excavated in which the sacred Buddha's relic placed in gold casket covered by a bigger silver casket has been found which is unique in the whole State of Orissa. In Udaygiri too, a new 'Vihara' has been excavated. The shield and edict show that there was a famous

Buddhist shrine at this place known as "Madhavpur Mahavihar Arya Bhikshu Sangha." No proper arrangement has been made for preservation and conservation and exhibition of the relics and other archaeological items.

I request that the archaeological Department should make proper arrangement for the preservation and exhibition of the relics and the other items excavated in these two places and guides should be provided to explain to the visitors the importance of the excavation. I hope more precious findings will come out with more excavations.

So, I also request that the Tourist Department should provide infrastructural facilities for the whole complex of Ratnagiri, Udaygiri and Lalitgiri by building tourist lodges and plying tourist coaches from Bhubaneswar to these places.

Besides this, publicity should be conducted not only in India but also abroad, particularly in South-East Asian countries to attract tourists to these places.

More funds should be provided by the Archaeological Department for excavation preservation and conservation of these historical monuments and for the ITDC for providing facilities in the Buddhist complex.

- (vi) Need to provide adequate funds for the development of Waltair railway station in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P. APPALANARASIMHAM. (Anakapalli): Mr. Speaker, at present, Waltair division recruitment is conducted by the Bhubaneswar Railway Recruitment Board. As per the policy, the recruitment should be transferred to Secunderabad Railway Recruitment Board since the Waltair division boundaries are within Andhra Pradesh. It will benefit the people of Andhra Pradesh.

All the important offices are located at Waltair and office of the Chief Engineer of Railways is also there. During the British rule, the Waltair station was deve-

loped. From that time onwards, it has occupied a place in the country map. Now it needs a lot of development and also needs modernisation. After Secunderabad, Waltair plays an important role. So, the Waltair Station should be provided adequate funds by the Central Government.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to set up a zonal railway headquarter in Patna city.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra): Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 :—

When Bihar fulfils all the conditions for having a Zonal railway headquarter then why no Zonal railway headquarter has been setup there till now.

The entire Indian Railway has about 61,000 kms of railway line. Indian Railway has been divided in nine zones from administrative point of view and to provide facilities to the passengers. On an average a zone has about 6777 kms. of railway line, where as Bihar alone has 7000 kms. of railway line and out of 7000 railway all over the country 1000 Railway stations are in Bihar. The expansion of Indian railway in Bihar is as follows :

North-Eastern Railway has 1000 kms. of railway line.

South-Eastern Railway has 1500 kms. of railway line.

Eastern Railway has 3500 kms. of railway line.

North Eastern Frontier Railways has 500 kms. of railway line.

It is a notable thing that West Bengal, which has 5000 kms. of railway line, has headquarters of two Zonal railways.

Not only this, Bihar alone produces 41 per cent of the total minerals in the country. The industrial areas like Bokaro