

emphasise the State Government to implement immediately this long awaited decision which has been approved by both the Central Government as well as the State Government.

[English]

(vi) Demand for a State Coaching Centre of NIS in Cannanore (Kerala)

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): Sir, the people of Kerala and especially the sports lovers and eminent sportsmen of Cannanore District have been yearning for a State Coaching Centre of NIS in Kerala.

Assurance had been given by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs that the setting up of a State level NIS centre in Kerala will be favourably considered when a site is obtained. The Kerala Government have identified and offered two or three sites in and around Cannanore for this purpose. However, no positive action has been taken yet.

Kerala has always offered a large number of sports talents and has a wealth of promising athletes too. NIS Regional Centre functioning at Bangalore should not be allowed to stand in the way of setting up of a unit in Kerala.

The Ministry for Sports and Youth Affairs may kindly come forward to initiate steps for setting up a State Coaching Centre of NIS in Cannanore in Kerala at the earliest.

(vii) Demand for filling up vacant posts in Regional Oilseeds Research Station, Kadiri in Anantapur district (Andhra Pradesh)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): A Regional Oilseeds Research Station was started at Kadiri in Anantapur District in 1955 and the posts of three Research Assistants and one Plant Breeder were sanctioned in 1985 only. This appears

to be the only Research Station in Andhra Pradesh which has released varieties in Groundnut namely Kadiri-1, Kadiri-2 and Kadiri-3.

As the plant breeders post was filled up only in 1957 and the station was headed by Assistants only till then no progress was made during the last 10 years. At present nearly 700 groundnut cultures are being tested during this year. Crossing programme was started last year to develop varieties with early duration, high yield and resistance to drought and diseases. Research could not proceed at a fast pace as post of one Assistant Research Officer in Agronomy, two in Breeding and one in Extension were vacant. The vacant posts may be filled up immediately and the station provided with further additional staff and land, for which proposals submitted to ICAR are pending since 1987.

It is requested that the Central Government may be pleased to fill up the vacant posts, and accord permission for strengthening the station with additional staff and land as these proposals are pending with ICAR and AP Agriculture University since 1987.

(viii) Demand for restoring the original timings of the Mahalaxmi Express starting from Bangalore

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): The decision of the railway authorities to delink the existing connection at Miraj between the Metre gauge Mahalakshmi Express from Bangalore and the Kolhapur-Bombay Mahalakshmi Express on the broad gauge from November 1 will affect large number of passengers from Chickmagalur, Hassan, Shimoga, Uttar Kannada, Chitradurga, Bellary, Dharwa and Belgaum District of Karnataka.

Because of the change in the timings of the Mahalakshmi Express, people travelling from Karnataka to Bombay will have to spend 5 more hours.