

States of the Country. It is yet to be introduced in Orissa, in a regular manner. If there is any State in the country, which needs the introduction of this service very urgently, it is Orissa, since this State is not inter-connected by the Railways. East and West Orissa, North and South Orissa, remains unconnected by Air. The important centers like Rourkela, Bhubaneswar Naval Centre Chilka and HAL Township Sunabada, Gopalpur-on-Sea are not directly inter-connected by train services.

One has to take arduous journey across many States to reach these destinations, which involves lot of time and expenditure. Puri is a place of Pilgrimage. Puri, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Jeyapur, Sunabada, Jagadapur (Madhya Pradesh) should be connected by Vayudoot service.

Jamshedpur, Rourkela and Bhilai need to be immediately connected by Vayudoot service for providing steel plants quick transport. Port to Port Vayudoot service is also a necessity. Haldia Paradip, Gopalpur-on-Sea and Visakhapatnam also need to be connected by Vayudoot.

(iv) **Need to withdraw the latest rules regarding cancellation charges for railway tickets**

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane) : It is learnt that the Railway Board with effect from January, 1986 has steeply revised the cancellation charges for tickets. As per the latest cancellation rules, which have not been publicly notified or published, obviously fearing public resentment, a second-class ticket holder has to suffer to the extent of 50 per cent of the value of the ticket as cancellation charges, even if the ticket is cancelled two full days in advance of the scheduled departure of the train. This unprecedented and unwarranted rise has added an extra burden on the already harassed commuters.

Nobody cancels a confirmed reservation unless it becomes absolutely essential.

Further, the general public is of the view that it has added to the rampant corruption. Due to the heavy cancellation charges, people are lured by agents to part with their confirmed reservation tickets at almost the same cost. Such tickets are

then sold to last minute travellers at a handsome premium.

I therefore, request the Government to look into this and withdraw the latest cancellation rules immediately.

(v) **Need to ensure equal wages for equal work for men and women engaged in tea gardens in Assam and other parts to the country**

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : Sir, in certain tea gardens of Assam, men and women workers do not get equal wages for equal work.

It is not only in Assam but also in other parts of India that this practice may exist.

The Government of India should institute an enquiry to find out the position in different parts of India and take proper action immediately.

(vi) **Need to take drastic steps to augment the supply to articles of daily necessities in cities like Bombay**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Food articles such as grains, edible oils, vanaspati, sugar and condiments have registered a sharp rise in prices in the past few weeks, particularly in cities like Bombay. The price rise is more in the retail than in the wholesale markets. Vegetables in particular have gone beyond the reach of the common man and are being sold at record high levels. I urge upon the Food and Civil Supplies Minister to take drastic steps to augment the supplies of daily necessities and to strengthen and encourage the consumers' bodies. The Government may also take stern steps against the traders for undue profiteering.

13.18 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(vii) **Need to adopt necessary measures to prevent leakage of chlorine gas in Orient Paper Mills, Brajrajnagar in Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, there has been a serious accident of leakage of chlorine gas in the

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

Orient Paper Mills, Brajrajnagar in Orissa on last Saturday the 16th August, 1986, creating panic among the workers in particular and the public of the locality in general. At least 31 workers have been affected and hospitalised. Earlier, during this year, two accidents have taken place in this factory killing and injuring many workers. Such accidents taking place one after another do not add to the credibility of the management and instead amply speak of the lack of concern and seriousness on the part of the management for the safety measures required in a factory like this. The Machineries of the factory appear to be quite old and obsolete and without proper maintenance.

The Chief Factory Inspector should have a thorough inspection of the entire factory and suggest necessary remedial measures in the interest of the safety of the workers.

Besides, the management of this factory is completely callous to the environment and ecology aspects. In fact, this factory has become a pioneer in Orissa in causing both air and water pollution since its inception. There is serious discontentment and resentment among the people.

Early compliance of the recommendations and suggestions of the Chief Factory Inspector and taking of necessary anti-pollution measures by the management of the factory ought to be insisted upon by the Government.

(viii) Need to rescind the order regarding shifting the office of the Chief Regional Executive, Tea Board from Coimbatore to Coonur

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, the Commerce Ministry has recently issued an order for shifting of the Chief Regional Executive office of Tea Board which was situated at Race Course Road, Coimbatore, to Coonur in Nilgiris District. For the last two years, vacancies in the above said office were not filled up with necessary staff. Other facilities were also not provided. This has been repeatedly informed to the Ministry by

various forums. Coimbatore is the business place for all machinery and other material goods. For tea planters also Coimbatore is the suitable place for business since the business people especially exporters gather only at Coimbatore. Since the Chief Regional Executive office is already located in the centrally located place at Coimbatore for Kerala as well as for Karnataka, the shifting may, be cancelled forthwith. The Tea Board members and small planters are also of the same view. The Minister of Commerce is requested to cancel the order of shifting from Coimbatore to Coonur.

(ix) Need to provide STD facilities between Canning Town and Calcutta during the current Plan period

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Canning is the gateway to the Sunderbans area in west Bengal famous for its scenic beauty, flora and fauna, tiger project and a great attraction for tourists, although this area is most backward—not only economically and industrially—but also in the field of tele-communications. It is an irony of fate that the rural West Bengal is the most backward area in the country which is lacking in rapid means of tele-communications and as a matter of fact, nothing much has been done to develop these communications, which in the present day jet-age remain far behind other States in the country. Even in the 7th plan, no provision has been made for the provision of STD facilities between Canning, an important town in the Sunderbans in 24-Parganas District, whose headquarters is located at Calcutta (Alipore) and this is causing considerable hardship and inconvenience to the people living in that part of the West Bengal State, who have to rush to Calcutta on small errands even due to the non-availability of direct communication with that city. The telephone system is archaic and is quite notorious for its malfunctioning. It is high time that Government initiates some positive action during the current plan to provide STD link facilities between Canning Town and Calcutta and thus mitigate the hardship being caused to the poor people living in that part of the State.