

[Smt. Patel Ramaben Ramjibhai Mavani]

These museums provide a lot of useful material to the public and research scholars on subjects like history, geography, public administration, language, general knowledge, science etc. These museums are the most important basis of education but the economic condition of these museums is deteriorating these days. At certain places it is getting difficult to run the museums which are run by public trusts due to lack of income or income arising from token admission fee because heavy expenditure is incurred on their maintenance and salary of the employees.

Therefore, such museums should get full assistance from the Government and liberal aids and grants-in-aid should be provided to them. The Government should also provide cent-percent maintenance expenditure, remuneration of employees etc. so that the useful museums get encouragement and may be run properly.

[English]

(vii) Demand for re-starting Kamala Mill, Bombay promptly

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Kamala Mill at Bombay suddenly closed down on 7th November 1988 sending shock wages among its 3,000 workers on the eve of Diwali.

Workers who went to the mill for the first shift, found the premises locked and a notice put up at the gate that closure had become inevitable because of financial problems.

In fact, the mill showed a turnover of Rs. 1,522 lakhs last year as against Rs. 956 lakhs in the previous year. Exports last year totalled Rs. 917 lakhs. It was to pay nearly 36 lakhs as bonus on 7th November 1988 and workers were given bonus-slips a day before.

I urge upon the Government to take over the Kamala Mill or to use powers under

the law to restart it promptly. Sudden closures in this way have become a usual feature in the textile industry in recent years. Government should take a serious note of it.

(viii) Demand for Introducing Howercraft service along the Konkan region

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Access to Gao from Bombay is through the hilly west coast and there is no railway facility for linking the two places. Chances of providing the railway facility are remote in view of hilly terrain, at least in the near future.

Three districts of Maharashtra, i.e., Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg fall in this zone which covers a distance of 600 kms. An average of two hundred buses carry about six thousand passengers a day to meet the requirement of this zone. Presently, there is a steamer service of the Shipping Corporation. However, this is found completely inadequate as it does not stop at major ports such as Jaigad, Ratnagiri, Devgad, Malwan, Achare and Vengurla. It operates non-stop service from Bombay to Goa. These steamers are incurring losses of about one crore rupees to the Central and State Governments.

Many private companies have asked the Government for permission to start Howercraft service. They are prepared to provide stoppages at all stations. I, therefore, request the Government to introduce the Howercraft service along Konkan region.

(ix) Demand for Installing telephone meters besides telephone instruments at the users' place instead of keeping all meters in telephone exchanges

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali): Telephone-metering is done in the telephone exchanges behind the back of the user who is many a time a helpless victim to the whims and fancies of its operator and he