

Indian origin are reported to have offered to invest Rs.100 crores for constructing a new Hong Kong on the soil of India preferably in Andaman-Nicobar Islands. This is an offer which should help India get the benefit of the high degree of commercial and industrial expertise plus funds with the Hong Kong based Indian origin people. Tiny Hong Kong provides employment to over two million people and has exports including re-exports larger than that of India. Our people settled there have contributed substantially towards this prosperity. They have enormous wealth in off shore funds and considerable experience in international trade. It is well known that certain industries like entertainment electronics are shifting from established countries like Japan towards the tax havens like Hong Kong and Taiwan. This is also an opportunity for India. If a Hong Kong life structure is created in India, it could attract these relocating industries and provide enormous employment. The Government should appoint a Parliamentary Commission to interview the non-resident Indians in Hong Kong and other places and recommend a course of action.

12.22 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

(iii) Need to construct an overbridge across railway crossing in North Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI C.K. Kuppuswamy (Coimbatore) : In the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Central Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 55 lakhs for the construction of a over-bridge across the Railway crossing in North Coimbatore. Out of this amount of Rs. 55 lakhs, the Union Government in its current budget presented in March, 1986 has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 131 lakhs in the first phase for taking up this work in hand in the current financial year by the Tamil Nadu Government. But the State Government in Tamil Nadu has not taken any action for the construction of over-bridge in North Coimbatore. There is not even any indication regarding this

work to be undertaken by the State Government.

Sir, Coimbatore is one of the few big cities in Tamil Nadu and lakhs of people living in and around the City are facing a lot of difficulties in easy movement from one side to the other side of the city by crossing the Railway lines, especially in busy hours. Very often, there is a virtual blockage of road traffic due to closing of the railway crossing gate.

I would, therefore, request the Union Minister for Railways kindly to impress upon the Tamil Nadu Government to take immediate action for the construction of the said over-bridge in North Coimbatore for which the Central Government's approval and sanction of necessary amount are already available.

(iv) Need to take effective steps to safeguard the interests of cardamom growers in the country.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : The decline in the prices of cardamom continues unabated. During the past one month, the average price has come down from Rs. 157.74 to Rs. 123.86. This sharp decline in the prices has hit the cardamom growers very hard. It may be noted that a majority of the growers are small and marginal farmers. Therefore, this sharp downswing in prices has almost ruined them. If this situation continues, the production of cardamom is likely to fall in the years to come as the farmers are sure to switch over to other crops and the foreign exchange earnings of the country will fall considerably.

Therefore in order to save the cardamom growers and the economy of the country, urgent and effective steps should be taken. I request that the following steps be taken immediately :

(i) The cardamom Trading Corporation Limited should be asked to enter the market in a big way.

(ii) Sanction immediately the revised

scheme submitted by the Cordamom Board.

- (iii) NAFED and STC should be asked to participate in the auctions as this will have a salutary impact on prices.
- (iv) Need to sanction Rs. 22 crores to the State of Orissa for improving the sewerage system in Cuttack City.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : (Cuttack) : In the absence of modern sewerage and drainage systems, life in Cuttack city has become very miserable. It is surrounded by river Mahanandi and Kathjuri and located on a low lying area on the basin of these two rivers.

It becomes very difficult to move from one place to another when there is a heavy rain in that city. During the current rainy season there were heavy rains which continued for more than a week. The Roads all over the city remained under water for days together as it was impossible to drain out the accumulated water into the rivers.

Thousands of people were affected by the recent rains in Cuttack and the people of the city suffered untold misery.

As you know, Cuttack which was once the Capital of Orissa is today rich in culture apart from being the largest city. It is now the main business centre of modern Orissa and many head offices including the Orissa High Court are located in this city. Unless, immediate measures are taken to provide modern drainage facilities and to improve the sewerage system the people of the city will continue to suffer. A sum of Rs. 22 crores is needed to implement the drainage system. The work has just started and the State Government is financially not sound to bear the cost of such project.

Therefore, I demand that adequate fund provision should be made to imple-

ment modern sewerage and drainage systems of Cuttack city without any further delay.

- (vi) Need to adopt effective measures to control the pollution of environment in Visakhapatnam.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : The citizens of Visakhapatnam are subjected to serious air pollution from industries like Hindustan Petroleum Refineries, Hindustan Zinc Plant, Coromandal Fertilisers, Steel Rolling Mills, Hindustan Polymers, etc. The smoke released by these industries is spreading over the thickly populated city which is surrounded by hills on three sides and Bay of Bengal on the other side. It is surprising that the Central Government permitted the Hindustan Petroleum Refinery in Visakhapatnam to expand three times of its capacity when the refinery was not to dispose, not only malodours, but also cancer causing substances into the environment. Government has not taken action despite several appeals and representations made to it to control the air pollution in the city.

Besides, this, the Port Trust Authorities in Visakhapatnam are allotting indiscriminately, sites for the storage facilities and transportation of hazardous chemicals and raw materials in the congested inner and outer harbours of Visakhapatnam. This action of the Port Trust Authorities in Visakhapatnam will expose the defence forces to potential chemical accidents which often occur either due to mechanical or human failures, nature's wrath, sabotage, terrorism or enemy action without making any risk analysis and environmental impact. The Visakhapatnam Port Authorities also propose to allot sites for hazardous operations like transport of liquid petroleum gas by cargo ships, storage of massive quantities of imported ammonia and phosphorous gas for Godavari Fertilizers Plant at Kakinada, transport and storage of imported coking coal for the Visakhapatnam and other Steel Plants in the country.