

**Demand for upgradation and increasing the number of Trauma Centres
at all the National Highways**

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House a very important matter. There is an urgent need to increase the number of Trauma Centres and upgrade existing Trauma Centres at National Highways. Our country has registered the maximum number of deaths in road accidents in the world. The latest statistics collated for the year 2007, show that the number of road accidents is 4,18,657 with fatalities 1,14,590. Despite the rising number of road accidents and fatalities, the Government does not seem to be too bothered about road safety issues. While the budget allocation is in thousand crores for various projects and programmes, the allocation is only in crores, in two digits for road safety and, unfortunately, this fund, for the last three years, has not been fully used. For example, the Government earmarked Rs. 47 crores in the year 2006-07 for road safety but only Rs. 43.25 crores were spent. The number of deaths has increased especially due to failure of providing immediate treatment to those who are affected by the road accidents. Therefore, I request the Government to treat road safety as an important category, like agriculture, health, employment, etc., and take immediate steps to increase the number of Trauma Centres and upgrade the existing Trauma Centres at all the National Highways with necessary ambulance facilities and introduce a three digit phone number for help just like 100 for police and 101 for fire service so that the number of road accidents and fatalities could be reduced considerably, at least, in future.

Demand to open Nathula pass in Sikkim for tourism

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Nathula Pass on the Indian and Chinese border in the State of Sikkim has been opened for limited trade purposes since July 2006. This step has helped a lot in improving the economy of the State besides improving the relations between the two countries. As we all know, Sikkim is a beautiful State with a lot of tourism potential. Sikkim, Nature's own Garden, is exceptionally blessed with natural beauty. There is a constant demand from a large number of people in the State of Sikkim that Nathula Pass may also be opened for tourism. If the Nathula Pass is opened for exchange of tourists, then, it will further boost the economy of the State, besides, further improving the ties between India and China. I, therefore, demand from the Central Government that they should take up the matter with China and make all efforts to open the Nathula Pass for tourism as well.

**Demand to provide employment to the persons belonging to SCs and STs for 200 days under the
National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से अनुरोध करना चाहती हूँ कि राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना के अंतर्गत पात्र बेरोजगार मजदूरों को वर्ष में 100 दिन का अनिवार्य रूप से रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने का प्रावधान किया गया है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि अधिकांश अनुसूचित जाति एवं जन जाति वर्ग के व्यक्तियों के पास खेती-बाड़ी नहीं होती है एवं वे सुदूर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में निवास करते हैं, जिनकी जीविका का साधन मजदूरी है। इस वर्ग के व्यक्ति आर्थिक