

Demand to release funds for the Southern Splendour Luxury Train Project

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government had requested for release of funds for the Southern Splendour Luxury Train Project. This project was conceptualized by the Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and this train is to travel through Southern States of India and to present a unique opportunity to tourists to get acquainted with rich heritage, culture and natural beauty of Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States. The train is modelled on the lines of Palace on Wheels of Rajasthan. The Department of Tourism submitted the project report costing Rs.40 crore to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, for sanction of Rs.10 crore as Central financial assistance under the Large Revenue Generation Scheme.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India, considered the project and keeping in view its importance which would promote tourism in Southern region have agreed in principle to the proposal and said that the funds would be released only after the project has been worked out with the Ministry of Railways. Funding/private participation has been clarified as the project would have to be sanctioned under the Large Revenue Generation Scheme and the Ministry of Railways have not approved the proposal so far. Therefore, the approval of the Ministry of Railways is necessary, only then the Ministry of Tourism may release funds for the prestigious project.

I, therefore, appeal to the Ministry of Railways to approve the proposal, so that it is easy for the Ministry of Tourism to release funds for the prestigious project at an early date.

Demand to expand the Air Travel Services in Chhattisgarh

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य बनने के बाद हवाई यात्रा करने वालों की संख्या में अच्छी वृद्धि हुई है और यह औद्योगिक, व्यावसायिक गतिविधियों तथा पर्यटन क्षेत्र में वृद्धि के कारण उत्तरोत्तर बढ़ती जा रही है। छत्तीसगढ़ प्रमुख रूप से दो संभागों में बंटा है - रायपुर व बिलासपुर। अभी मात्र रायपुर में विमान सेवा है। वहां संख्या बढ़ने के कारण यात्रियों के लिए स्थान कम पड़ता है।

एयर इंडिया की शाम को दिल्ली से उड़ान नहीं है, वैसे ही दिल्ली के लिए शाम को उड़ान नहीं है। मेरा सरकार से आग्रह है कि रायपुर में एयर इंडिया की उड़ानों एवं अन्य सुविधाओं का विस्तार हो। दूसरे, बिलासपुर में सेवा उपलब्ध कराने की संभावना, आवश्यकता आदि का अध्ययन होकर स्थापना हो।

Demand for a documentary on the life and works of Shri M. Boyer, A Noted Konkani theatre artist of Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, a noted Konkani theatre artist, Shri M. Boyer, of Goa expired recently in Goa. Shri Boyer had dominated the Konkani theatre (drama) stage for well over half a century and was awarded the Padma Shree in 2005 for his immense contribution to art and culture at the hands of former President of India, Abdul Kalam.

He has to his credit around 28 awards, including the prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy award in 1994, which he received at the hands of the former President of India, late Shankar Dayal Sharma.

In his long career, Shri Boyer staged over 5000 shows in India and abroad and composed and sang over 1000 songs.

Experts say that the theatre (drama) stages by late Shri Boyer were in Italian format, which format has died in Italy. Shri Boyer in his lifetime kept the format alive.

Shri Boyer, who basically performed in comedy roles and sang comedy songs, entertained the people of Goa for over five decades. It is only a mad love for Konkani drama which made him to struggle and perform in every nook and corner of Goa. He was an icon to those who watched him regularly.

It is my earnest appeal to the Government of India, especially the Ministry of Art and Culture that a documentary depicting the life and works of this great Konkani artist be produced with the inputs that his colleagues in Goa will be glad to provide.

**Demand to expedite the completion of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project in
Orissa**

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA (Orissa): Sir, the “Subarnarekha Irrigation Project” was started in 1980. It was financed by the World Bank and was scheduled to be completed within ten years, including the “Jambhira and Haldia bandh” reservoirs.

But during the last ten years, the progress in work of the project was very slow. Allocation of World Bank funds was stopped.

Again, it has been started during 2008-09. The pending rehabilitation work is also being started. But they have not covered woman (single)-headed family though the Executive Engineer & Special Land Acquisition Officer-cum-Rehabilitation Officer assured them to expedite the rehabilitation works and finalise all the pending compensation to the affected inhabitants during the first part of 2009.

“Mayurbhanj” is the biggest undivided District in Orissa, which is thickly populated with tribals. And they depend only on agriculture and forest products. Scarcity of drinking water is also seen during summer. There is also a project of drinking water concerning District Headquarter “Baripada”.

The District has no industry or any such type of income-generating project initiated by the Central Government or by the State Government. Therefore, irrigation is the only source to feed “aam admi” of the District.

The people of the District are peace-loving people. During the period of “Mayurbhanj State”, and till date, they do not believe in any agitational programme.

Therefore, I request the Government to speed up the work for completion of the project in Mayurbhanj, Orissa, keeping in view the interest of the people. Thank you, Sir.