

being made with the object of inviting the attention of the Central Government to the happenings going on at Hampi in order to activate it to take steps for protecting and preserving the most important archaeological wealth of the Nation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, no; it is not permitted. You can only read the approved texts. That is a rule. You cannot deviate from that.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: It is all right, Sir. ..(Interruptions)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. It will not go on the record.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: Sir, I am not saying anything on the topic. I wish that there should be quorum at the time of Special Mention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Shri Ganga Charan, not there; Shri Tarlochan Singh; not there. Those who have given Special Mentions are also not here, then what can I do? Now, Shri Tarini Kanta Roy.

Demand for regular flights to and from Cooch Bihar airport

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to replies of Unstarred Question No. 1882, dated 18.03.2008, wherein it was stated that "The airport of Cooch Bihar has been declared operational for VFR flights for aircraft up to ATR-42. Thereafter, neither a single flight has landed nor took off from Cooch Bihar Airport though more than one year has passed. Incidentally, it may please be pointed out that the Union Government has already spent Rs.20 crores for renewal of runway and construction of the boundary wall. The Government of West Bengal has incurred an expenditure of Rs.11, 30,00,000 in 2006-07 for acquiring land and other civil works. The airport needs to be fully operational. The people of Cooch Bihar, Dooars, Jalpaiguri, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and part of Meghalaya will be benefited as this will open a new door of communication. I urge upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, to take early action, so that the Cooch Bihar Airport may be made fully and commercially operational.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Demand to set up an astrophysical institute at Patna in Bihar in memory of Aryabhatta

DR. C.P. THAKUR (Bihar): On 22nd July, 2009, *i.e.*, today, a total solar eclipse occurred which was best visible near Patna and better from Taregna near Patna, a place from where Aryabhatt used to study the stars. There is another Taregna which is situated in the west of this Taregna and he himself lived at Khagol, his name is also derived from Khagol. If these three places are joined, it forms an equilateral triangle. He first said that the Earth moves around the Sun. To commemorate the

memory of this great astrophysicist, a world class Astrophysical , institute in his name should be established by the Government of India at Khagol and it should be an advance centre of learning and research. It will always remind us of this great ancient scientist.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member .

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Sir, I am laying it on the Table of the House. I don't want to waste your precious time. It is all right.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): So, you are laying it on the Table.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Yes; Sir, I am laying it on the Table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay thank you very much. That is laid on the Table.

**Demand to take effective steps to check sexual abuse
of children in the country**

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): The "Study on Child Abuse: India 2007" conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development acknowledges that child sex abuse takes place in schools. One out of two children in schools have faced sexual abuse. And overall, more boys than girls face various forms of sexual abuse ranging from inappropriate touch, exposure to pornography or violent sexual assault.

What is worrisome is that the perpetrators are not necessarily adults. "The abuser could be from the peer group or an older student."

A study on child abuse in Kolkata found that four out of ten boys faced sexual harassment in schools.

Similar study on Class XI students of schools in Chennai, it found that one out of two boys had been abused as compared to two out of five girls.

It has been proved that boys are equally, if not more, vulnerable to sexual abuse as girls. 48 per cent boys and 35 per cent girls faced sexual abuse. The national study found that the child abuse gained momentum at the age of ten and peaked between 12 to 15.

The degree of abuse varies according to age. In the upper school (class IX to XII), it could turn into homosexuality or forced sex. 'Boys get very scared and secretive.