

Demand to take immediate steps for facilitating the easy access of tribals to Financial Institutions of the Country.

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House through the Special Mention on the need to take steps for financial inclusion of tribals in Andhra Pradesh agency areas and also all over the country in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan.

As the House is aware, a large section of our population, especially tribal people, does not have awareness and access to formal financial institutions. The informal market provides credit at extremely high rates of interest and on arbitrary terms. Due to certain factors, financial institutions do not have adequate network in tribal areas, especially in East Godavari, West Godavari, Araku and Bhadrachalam areas in Andhra Pradesh. In the absence of formal institutions, the tribal population is unable to obtain credit.

The payments of many schemes, which are running by the Government, are made through banks. Payments for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and some crop insurance are being made through banks to check diversion of funds. However, in the absence of bank accounts, the tribal people are unable to receive such monetary benefits. The number of bank branches in rural areas were reduced from 51 per cent in 1999 to 40 per cent in 2009.

Despite the RBI periodically issuing circulars for giving credit facilities to the SC and the ST by simplifying banking procedure, the banks are not following the same.

I therefore, request the hon. Minister of Finance, through the Chair, to take immediate steps for financial inclusion of tribal population by encouraging banks to expand their network and services in rural areas to provide customized services keeping in mind the unique problems faced by the tribal people not only in Andhra Pradesh agencies areas but all over the country in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Demand to grant the facility of free journey to the freedom fighters and their widows in II AC of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express in the Country

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA (Orissa): Sir, the freedom fighters of our country are most respected citizens. Most of them are at the twilight hour of their life. So, utmost care should be given

to them. They were given free travel facilities in second Act in all express and super fast trains except Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express. At the request of the freedom fighters, now the III AC travel facility is given in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express by the Railway Ministry. Since the freedom fighters are above eighties and most of them are ailing, it is difficult for them to travel in III AC. They cannot climb to middle or upper berth and cannot sit on the lower berth when the middle berth is occupied by a fellow traveler. So to make the travel convenient, I request the Railway Minister, through the Chair, to grant free journey facility to the freedom fighters and their widows in II AC in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains.

SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Baishnab Parida.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, मैं इस विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Demand to Expedite the Process of Air-Connectivity of

Kanpur to other cities of the Country

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से नागर विमानन मंत्री का ध्यान कानपुर हवाई अड्डे के त्वरित विकास की तरफ आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। वर्ष 1978 में कानपुर से इंडियन एयरलाइंस का बोइंग विमान दिल्ली, अहमदाबाद, मुंबई और कोलकाता के मध्य उड़ान भरता था, जो काफी सफल था। 1998 में अर्चना एयरवेज का 18 सीटर विमान चला, लेकिन कुछ ही माह में अव्यवस्थाओं के कारण बंद हो गया। 2003 में डेक्कन एयरवेज की सेवा शुरू हुई लेकिन वह भी बंद हो गई। 20 सितंबर, 2007 से इंडियन एयरलाइंस ने 48 सीटर ए.टी.आर. विमान सेवा शुरू की है। यह विमान पहले दिल्ली और कानपुर के बीच था, लेकिन अब दिल्ली, कानपुर तथा इलाहाबाद के मध्य चलता है। इस विमान का कोई भरोसा नहीं रहता कि कब रद्द हो जाए।

महोदय, कानपुर उत्तर भारत का प्रमुख औद्योगिक शहर है तथा यहां के व्यापारी, उद्योगपति लखनऊ से विमान सेवा लेते हैं। लखनऊ से विमान सेवा लेने वालों में 40 प्रतिशत यात्री कानपुर के होते हैं। कानपुर में Instrument Landing System न होने के कारण एकामत्र उड़ान को भी कभी लखनऊ या इलाहाबाद की तरफ divert कर दिया जाता था। 2009 से ILS पर काम चल रहा है। मैं मांग करता हूँ कि शीघ्र ही यह काम पूरा हो तथा