

I request the Government to celebrate his birth bicentenary at the national level, as he was the man of whom every Indian would be proud, and I also request the Ministry of Communications to bring out a special postal stamp to commemorate his birth bicentenary.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. Bharatkumar Raut.

Demand to hand over the relics of Lord Buddha to Pagoda at Mumbai as per recommendations of Dr. B.L. Mungekar Committee

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL (Gujarat): The Government of India had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B.L. Mungekar, the then Member of the Planning Commission, and at present, an hon. Member of this House, to give report regarding the handing over of relics the Global Vipassana Pagoda at Mumbai.

During British regime, the relics were taken to the British Museum at London. After Independence, some of the relics were received back. These relics were handed over to the Mahabodhi Society, Kolkata. However, the relics, which were received subsequently, have been kept at the National Museum, Delhi, where they are being exhibited like any other ordinary objects. This is highly objectionable. Buddha relics must be treated and kept with highest respect as our great country has been the cradle of Buddhism and, therefore, it is but natural that the followers of Lord Buddha all over the world have great respect and reverence for India.

Many leading personalities and organisations have already requested the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to take over the relics from the present place and hand over to Pagoda at Mumbai as suggested by Dr. B.L. Mungekar Committee.

Hon. Minister of Culture, Government of India, may please inform this House what actions were taken by the Ministry on the report of the said Committee on relics and also what actions are proposed to be taken at present in view of various representations in this matter.

Need to set up strict norms and guidelines on production of Junk Foods in the Country

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this Government the need to take steps to restrict advertisement of junk food to children through satellite

channels in the country. As per the World Health Organization's report, junk foods taken by children are the leading cause of childhood obesity, which affects millions of children in the country. So, the World Health Organization has recommended that our country take strict action against advertisement of junk food shown to children. In fact, there is no study conducted in the country regarding the health consequences among children due to junk foods. If a health survey is conducted, the real health picture of our children who are affected due to consumption of junk foods would come to light.

Therefore, in view of the dangers of health consequences due to consumption of junk foods, I urge upon the Central Government to take initiatives for setting up norms and guidelines for the production of junk foods as well as to restrict the production of junk foods by enacting strong provisions. In addition to this, since a lot of advertising reaches children through satellite channels, guidelines for advertisement of junk foods should be created and the quality of those junk foods should be monitored by an empowered *ad hoc* body, so that the future generation would be saved from non-infectious diseases such as obesity, heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes that cause 90 per cent of premature deaths in developing countries like India.

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (NOMINATED): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI MUKUT MITHI (Arunachal Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

**Need to set up institutions of higher studies exclusively for
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, education has always been an uplifting force. The educational status of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is dismal even