

Demand for opening Suchetgarh-Sialkot bus route in Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI T. S. BAJWA (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, my Special Mention is regarding the opening of Suchetgarh Sialkot routs in Jammu and Kashmir. The U.P.A. Government, as a gesture of goodwill, opened a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad which was liked and appreciated by the people from both the sides of the country. Some other borders opened during severe earthquake and carrying relief measures were also welcomed. A bus route between Suchetgarh (R.S. Pura) and Sialkot was in operation which was closed down after partition. This route was very important and useful for the people at large and the business community in particular to transport their goods from one side to the other. A large number of people using this route have now settled this region after migration from POK it is understood that the Government of India in June 2004 during the Foreign Secretery level discussions, had proposed opening of the Jammu-Sialkot bus, link. But no progress has appeared to be made further in the matter.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to take up the matter with Pakistan further in the light of the importance of this route for enhancing people-to-people contact and for building confidence amongst the people on both sides of the international border and Line of Control. Reopening this bus route will definitely prove a milestone towards peace efforts being undertaken by both the countries. Thank you.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA) in the Chair.]

Concern over adulteration of food items in the Country

PROF. M.M. AGARWAL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the perennial problem of food adulteration in the country. Adulteration has been in existence since ages but nowadays, it has assumed an alarming proportion. Be it any food, nobody can testify that it is safe when it enters yours home. There are many laws to ensure safe food but unfortunately, none is implemented properly. The main law is the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act which is enforced by ill-equipped Food Inspectors. They do not have sophistication to check various adulterants ranging from relatively harmless used tea leaves to iron filling, saw dust, sand, or even dung powder. Everything you eat or drink, be it milk, floor, dal, oil, vegetables, sweet, fruit juices or water, is adulterated. The impact