

अंधेरे में एक गुफा खोली। उस गुफा में जो भी बहुमूल्य ऐतिहासिक वस्तुएं मिलीं, वे वस्तुएं लेकर सवेरा होने से पहले वे भाग गए।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से भारत सरकार के पुरातत्व विभाग से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वह इस स्थान की खुदाई करे तथा अन्य गुफाओं को खोलकर वहां जो बौद्धकालीन ऐतिहासिक धरोहर है, उसका जतन करे, संरक्षण करे। साथ-साथ जो भी चीजें चोरी हुई हैं, उनको वापस लाने की कोशिश करे। धन्यवाद।

Demand for early disbursal of scholarships for the wards of beedi workers in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): In Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, there are about five lakh *beedi* workers, which is the highest in the State of Tamil Nadu. About one lakh students are being benefited by the scholarships to the wards of Beedi Workers. The Ministry of Labour, Government of India, is awarding scholarships to the wards of various *beedi* workers from first standard to college level, at a pre-determined amount through their department. The amount varies between Rs. 400 to Rs. 2500 per child, depending upon the class in which the child is studying. The amount is a considerably huge amount, as far as the *beedi* workers are concerned. The scholarships for the academic years 2012-13 and 2013-14 have not been disbursed so far. The amount of nearly 14 crore rupees, which had been earmarked for this purpose, is lying idle in the Union Bank of India. For the past two years, the *beedi* workers in the Tirunelveli district are facing great problems to educate their children. This has increased the number of dropouts from the schools.

I beseech upon the Government of India to immediately take up this issue of public importance and release the scholarships at the beginning of every succeeding year. This will benefit the socially deprived people of the South, at large.

Demand to improve the functioning of Indian Meteorological Department to ensure accuracy in weather predictions

श्री शंकरभाई एन. वेगड़ (गुजरात) : महोदय, भारत ने स्पेस टेक्नोलॉजी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी में दुनिया में महारत हासिल की है, परन्तु हमारे मेटेरोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट की कार्य प्रणाली में काफी सुधार की आवश्यकता है। क्योंकि हाल के दिनों में यह देखा गया है कि इंडियन मेटेरो लॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट द्वारा बारिश का पूर्वानुमान बार-बार गलत हो रहा है और कोई भी संबंधित अधिकारी इसे गम्भीरतापूर्वक नहीं ले रहा है।

महोदय, दुनिया के कई विकसित देशों में मौसम के पूर्वानुमान के लिए बहुत से अत्याधुनिक प्रणाली विकसित की गई हैं और उनके मौसम विभाग द्वारा किए जाने वाले पूर्वानुमान काफी सटीक और सही होते हैं। टेक्नोलॉजी के क्षेत्रों में हमारा देश काफी आगे होने के बावजूद भी हम

इस दिशा में आगे नहीं बढ़ पा रहे हैं जिसकी वजह से हमारे देश के किसानों की फसलों पर विपरीत और बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। पीने के पानी की भी भारी किल्लत हो रही है।

महोदय, भारत सरकार को इंडियन मेट्रोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट की कार्यप्रणाली में सुधार के लिए हरसंभव प्रयास करते हुए आवश्यक कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है।

Demand to establish a divisional headquarter of Southern Railway in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu and for running more trains between Tirunelveli and Chennai

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I urge the Government to establish a divisional headquarter of Southern Railways in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. As Tirunelveli is the regional headquarter for all Southern districts in terms of trade, education etc., there is an urgent need for a railway headquarter in Tirunelveli zone, which will benefit the people at large.

I beseech the Government to let more trains run on the highly profitable Chennai to Tirunelveli Railway route and also to various other places beyond Tirunelveli.

Demand to add additional coaches in Ooty Mountain Train and setting up a halt station at Rannimedu in Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Nilgiris is a beautiful place of tourist importance. To add to its beauty, the Ooty Mountain Train which is more than 100 years old has obtained UNESCO's heritage status in 2005. This engineering marvel is world famous as it was highlighted in BBC Channel 4. We request the Government to add additional coaches to this Mountain Train and also to have a halt station at Rannimedu which also has a significance. The mortal remains of our Father of the Nation were immersed in the river in Rannimedu. Therefore, we request the hon. Railway Minister to sanction a halt station at Rannimedu near Coonoor.

Secondly, the Cheran Express from Chennai to Coimbatore needs to be extended up to Mettupalayam. This is a very important request from all the people of Nilgiris district where I have the honour to belong.

Demand to take appropriate measures to check the inordinate delay in disposal of cases in courts of the country

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, delay in the disposal of cases causes arrears in courts. Justice delayed is justice denied. No litigant is able to get justice during his lifetime.

The Government is the major litigant. Nowadays, because of increased awareness in the people, more cases are being filed by them. In the Supreme Court and the High