

डा. विकास महात्मे (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव: महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कान्ता कर्दम (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

**Maintenance of Rabindranath Tagore's belongings at Visva Bharati,
Santiniketan, by Archaeological Survey of India**

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, through you, I wanted to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue of Visva Bharati, Santiniketan.

Sir, Rabindranath Tagore's dream of India's communion with the world stands tall with the University of Visva Bharati which the world turns up to see even today in large numbers. The entire campus is a celebration of the diversified unity of the country and its relation to the world. Eminent artists like Nandalal Bose, Ramkinkar Baij, Abanindranath Tagore and Rabindranath himself planned its unique architecture.

The architecture is a unique mixture of ancient Brahmanical, Buddhist and Mughal style. Influence of the Middle East, Egyptian and Assyrian architecture is eminent throughout the campus. The Uttarayana compound comprises five separate residences of Tagore, namely, Udayan, Konarka, Shamali, Punascha and Udichi. The houses at every nook and corner have the belongings of poet.

The ASI was looking after the upkeep and maintenance of buildings. Recently, the ASI has stopped its work and has given a letter to the university authority stating that it is unable to maintain the historical and delicate buildings of the campus.

The famous museum inside the Konark building has been closed for visitors. Very recently, slabs have fallen from ceiling of the poet's favourite room, Kabikaksha, at the first floor of Udyana. The room has a lot of belongings of the poet.

Sir, just a few months ago, you yourself had gone there on 16th of August and inaugurated a famous mud house where the poet used to live. The ASI had renovated it for five years. This mud house is also a very favourite place of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. Now, after you inaugurated, within few months, the condition of the house has become bad, because ASI has stopped maintenance and upkeep of houses.

[Shri Ritabarata Banerjee]

A substantial amount of money and expertise is required to maintain the structures and if ASI backs out it is almost impossible to keep the buildings in a proper shape. In the last few months many valuable furniture has been destroyed.

In conclusion, recently, when the ASI had given that letter, in England, a celebrated publication released containing the great writers of the last one thousand years. The name of the publication is 'Writers.' And, from India, only Tagore's name is mentioned in the book. The book says and I quote, 'A man of distinctive appearance, Tagore was a true polymath. He was an accomplished musician and artist, an electric philosopher and a passionate political activist. Above all, the poet of the world advocated universalism and cultural freedom.' When the book was published, the ASI, at that time, has decided not to keep and maintain buildings.

So, Sir, I urge upon the Government, through you, that ASI must look upon the buildings. It is a very serious matter of national importance. Thank you.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour submission made by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House can take note of it and pass it on to the Ministry of Culture. What he is saying is true. It should be looked into.

Need for better facilities for the people along the border of Punjab

श्री श्वेत मलिक (पंजाब): सर, मैं एक बड़ा important issue आपके माध्यम से सरकार के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब में सैकड़ों किलोमीटर का जो एरिया है, वह बॉर्डर बेल्ट है और वह भी पाकिस्तान के साथ लगता है, पाकिस्तान कभी न कभी शरारत करता रहता है और वहां के लोगों को डिस्टर्ब करता रहता है। वहां पर जो किसान और छोटे व्यापारी बॉर्डर की बेल्ट के साथ रहते हैं, मैं उनकी विषम परिस्थिति और उनके जीवन की कठिनाई के बारे में आपके माध्यम से सरकार को बताना चाहता हूँ।