

श्री सभापति: श्री राजमणि पटेल उपस्थित नहीं है। श्रीमती सरोजिनी हेम्ब्रम, आप बोलिए।

**Demand to stop eviction of shops in Betnoti Railway Station in
Mayurbhanj District of Odisha**

SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM (Odisha): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter pertaining to eviction of shops in Betnoti Railway Station of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha.

The Ministry of Railways had allotted plot licence to the shopkeepers to operate their business in the Railway campus at Betnoti Railway Station since a long period. The shopkeepers are running their business since many decades in Betnoti Railway Station. This is to mention here that these shopkeepers are native of this area and living with their families since many years. They are the bread earners for their children and for families.

But, all of a sudden, the South Eastern Railways authorities have issued a notice for eviction of shops in this place and directed them to vacate the place where they have been running their business/shops.

If they are evicted immediately, then they will face a lot of problems for their earnings, their livelihood, etc., and the people of this area will also suffer a lot.

Keeping in view these facts, I request the hon. Railway Minister to give them time for a period of one year to vacate the area and make some alternative arrangements for their livelihood on humanitarian grounds for the welfare of these people and for the larger interest of the people of my native district, Mayurbhanj.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth.

Demand for better infrastructure for the Vattakottai Fort, Kanyakumari

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vattakottai Fort is an ocean side fortification close to Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu the southern tip of India. The fortification is made of enduring and beautiful granite blocks, a part of the fort reaches out into the ocean. It is protected site under the Archaeological Department. This coastal fort was built in the 18th century during the reign of the Travancore Dynasty. In fact, this is the last fort built by the Travancore Kingdom. The building of this fort commenced in 1729, during the rule

[Shrimati Vijila Sathyanath]

of King Marthanda Varma, under the supervision of Captain Eustachius De Lannoy. Vattakottai Fort provides a beautiful perspective of the ocean on the one side and the slopes on the other. Another intriguing element close to the site is a shoreline of dark sands. Many walls of the Vattakottai fort, have carved in them, motifs of fish. This has led archaeologists to believe that the fort must also have been in the rule of and under the use of the Pandya Empire. The fort was primarily built to watch and protect the Kumari port, which was a rich pearl harbour. The fort gave a crystal clear view of the Padmanabhapuram Palace from the top. That is extremely amazing tourist spot. A noteworthy redesign of the fortification should be embraced by the Archeological Survey of India.

I urge upon the Government that this massive fort should be fully equipped with equipment rooms, army cantonments and provisional facilities like public conveniences. The calm water contained in a rectangular trench makes it a perfect spot to explore our history.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 1100 hours on Thursday, the 28th November, 2019.

*The House then adjourned at fifty two minutes past six of
the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday,
the 28th November, 2019.*