

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

**Demand for additional Vistadome railway coaches between
Visakhapatnam and Araku**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Visakhapatnam is a major tourist destination and is particularly known for its beaches, caves and ghats. It is referred to by many nicknames, such as, the Jewel of the East coast.

Amongst its numerous tourist attractions is the Vista-Dome coach. At present, the coach is attached to the regular train between Visakhapatnam and Araku. The coach is specially designed with a single large window through which tourists can get a panoramic view of the Eastern Ghats and its ecology. These coaches are, therefore, very popular with the European travellers due to their ability to give breathtaking view. Despite its popularity and huge demand, unfortunately, there exists just one Vistadome coach for the whole of Visakhapatnam. On most days, there exists a long waiting list for its tickets. There is, therefore, a requirement of plying at least five more Vistadome

[Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy]

Coaches between Visakhapatnam (VSKP) and Araku (ARK) at the earliest. These new coaches would give a further boost to the thriving tourism industry in Visakhapatnam as well as earn revenue for the Railways.

I, therefore, request the Government to kindly take steps towards fulfilling this requirement at the earliest. Thank you very much, Sir.

**Concern over environmental pollution in villages at
Chhattisgarh-Odisha border due to NTPC power plant**

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, the NTPC mega power plant at Lara in Chhattisgarh, bordering to Jharsuguda district of Odisha, has become a curse for around fifty periphery villages. These villages, at a distance of one to two kilometres from the plant site, have become hell due to serious environmental pollution. Drinking water is contaminated and agricultural farming is affected. The Gram Sabha of each village had opposed the location fearing all these to happen. The apprehension has now come true.

All the assurances given by the NTPC authorities for providing employment to the affected villagers of Odisha and taking up peripheral development have not been adhered to. Not a single villager has been given job nor has any developmental work been taken up from the Periphery Development Fund or under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Thousands of vehicles transporting coal from coal mines to the plant site every day is damaging roads which results in numerous accidents causing loss of human lives.

This has resulted in serious discontentment amongst the villagers and may lead to law and order situation any time. I would, therefore, urge upon the Ministries of Coal, Environment and Forests and Power to immediately intervene in the matter and give necessary directives to the NTPC and the Lara Power Plant management to desist from violating the law of the land and heed to the grievances of the villagers of Odisha located in the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. Thank you, Sir.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.