

inhabited by the endangered Asian Elephant species. As human populations expand and encroach upon traditional elephant habitats, conflicts arise, often leading to adverse consequences for both humans and elephants. The need to address this issue has prompted initiatives to explore the possibility of shifting elephants to more suitable living spaces. The encroachment of human settlements into elephant territories often results in crop raids, property damage, and occasionally, human casualties. To mitigate these conflicts, we can think of strategic relocation of elephants to areas where their natural behaviours can be arranged without detrimental effects on the local communities. Shifting elephants to more suitable habitats is not only about protecting human interests but also ensuring the conservation of this endangered species.

Creating protected reserves or corridors for elephants allows them to roam freely, engage in natural behaviours, and helps maintain a healthy population. These conservation efforts aim to strike a balance between the needs of both humans and elephants, fostering coexistence rather than conflict. It is crucial to approach the shifting of elephants with careful planning, considering factors such as food availability, water sources, and the overall health ecosystem. Collaborative efforts involving wildlife experts, conservationists, and local communities are essential to ensure the success of such initiatives. I urge the Government to address the issue of elephant depredation through strategic relocation. In this way, we can contribute to the preservation of the endangered Asian Elephant species while promoting harmonious coexistence between elephants and human communities.

### **Demand for conversion into National Highway and four-laning of the Road**

DR. K. LAXMAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, at the very outset, I thank the Union Government for sanctioning highest number of National Highways including Hyderabad Regional Ring Road and for allocation of more than Rs.1.10 lakh crore funds for National Highways, construction of a number of flyovers and underpasses in Telangana. Hyderabad-Ibrahimpattanam-Nagarjunasagar-Dornala Road is an important road which connects historical Nagarjunasagar Project, Nagarjuna Konda Museum apart from Buddhavanam which is being developed. This road is also a link between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Buddhavanam project was sanctioned by the Government of India as part of Krishna Valley Buddhist Circuit with a view to attract a large number of domestic and foreign tourists, particularly from South-East Asian countries.

Nagarjuna Konda (hill) is a historical town, now an island, located in Sagar backwater. Due to submersion, a museum was built on hilltop which houses a collection of relics of Buddhist culture and art. It is one of India's richest Buddhist sites. As Nagarjunasagar has become a tourism hub for national and international tourists, vehicle movement has increased many times. Presently, the road is just two-lane without divider due to which accidents occur very frequently.

Keeping in view the traffic congestion and for making it accident-free, this road must be made National Highway and developed into four-lane for smooth and easy travelling not only from Hyderabad but also from Chennai, Tirupati, Nellore and other cities. Therefore, I request the Government to accord National Highway status and allocate funds for four-laning of the Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar-Macharla Road.

### **Demand for establishment of Institute of Higher Study on infrastructure in Uttarakhand**

**श्री नरेश बंसल** (उत्तराखण्ड): महोदय, उत्तराखण्ड के उत्तरकाशी जिले के सिलक्यारा में निर्माणाधीन सुरंग में मलबा आ जाने से सुरंग में 41 मजदूर फंस गए थे, जिन्हें 17 दिनों तक चले रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन के बाद बाहर निकाला जा सका। आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री, नरेन्द्र मोदी जी की अगुवाई एवं मुख्य मंत्री, धामी जी के सफल कार्यान्वयन से भारतीय सेना, NDRF, SDRF, GSI, CBRI, रुड़की, वाडिया इन्स्टिट्यूट जैसी विभिन्न एजेंसियों ने मिलकर संयुक्त बचाव अभियान चलाया और वह सफल रहा। साथ ही, बाबा बौखनाथ की कृपा से यह अभियान सफल हुआ। आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व को साधुवाद, जिनके मार्गदर्शन में सभी टीमों इस चुनौतीपूर्ण ऑपरेशन को पूरा करने में सफल रहीं। ऑस्ट्रेलियाई विशेषज्ञ, अर्नोल्ड डिक्स इसे अपने जीवन का 'सबसे कठिन' बचाव कार्य अभियान बताते हैं। यह घटना सुरंग निर्माण के विषय में चिंताएँ बढ़ाती है, साथ ही संभावित कारणों और निवारक उपायों की बारीकी से जाँच करने के लिए प्रेरित करती है। सिलक्यारा सुरंग में मलबा आने का सटीक कारण अभी तक पता नहीं चल पाया है। हिमालय के पहाड़ काफी नए हैं और यहां की बदलती संरचना के कारण पैदा होने वाली अस्थिरता चिंता का विषय है। भूवैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि उत्तरी हिमालय क्षेत्र में, जहाँ उत्तराखण्ड बसा है, वहां की चट्टानें अक्सर अस्थिर हैं। सुरंग बनाने हेतु चट्टानों की नाजुकता और मजबूती आदि की गहन पड़ताल करना जरूरी है।

अतः मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि हिमालयी क्षेत्र, उत्तराखण्ड में इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के विकास हेतु उच्च अध्ययन केन्द्र स्थापित किया जाए, ताकि उत्तराखण्ड इस तरह की आपदाओं और मौसम की मार को झेल सके।