

Sir, I would thus request the Government to formally include at least two of the five prime tourist sites of Odisha in the list of iconic sites, which has also been a long-pending request of the State Government since the year 2019.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Sujeet Kumar: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal).

Need for adequate Special trains to Kerala in festive seasons

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, the Indian Railways is the lifeline of India. In times of exorbitant prices being charged by airlines during the festive season, the railways play a pivotal role in helping ordinary citizens travel to their hometown. During the recent Diwali season, it was observed and reported that thousands of people were waitlisted and could not get trains back home. The hardship caused by such wait-listing is significant as people eagerly waiting to join their families to celebrate festivals were denied the opportunity. It has also come to our notice that this helpless plight had led several passengers to enter trains without confirmed tickets, causing overcrowding in trains. It is observed that despite the overcrowding, people travel, risking their lives at times. Every year, thousands of Malayalis travel back to Kerala during the festivals of Onam, Christmas and New Year. Yet, many of them are disappointed due to the lack of trains and tickets and have to suffer.

In this regard, I urge the hon. Railway Minister to ensure adequate special trains are arranged to Kerala to meet the demands of the festive season.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Binoy Viswam: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham, (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).