

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra: Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu).

Demand for Development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to a matter of an urgent public importance relating to the development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha. The temple holds immense cultural, religious, and historical significance and is a popular pilgrimage site for both local and foreign tourists. Despite its potential, the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills have not received the necessary attention for comprehensive development and promotion as a tourist attraction. This oversight limits the region's tourism potential and deprives local communities of the socio-economic benefits that a thriving tourism industry can bring. I, therefore, request the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism that the Harishankar Temple and its surrounding area be declared an India International Tourist Centre. Moreover, sufficient funds and resources must be allocated for infrastructure development, improving railway connectivity, accessibility and overall facilities in and around the temple and hills. Conservation and preservation measures are also needed to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area. By declaring the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills as an India International Tourist Centre, their full potential can be unlocked, contributing to the growth of the tourism sector in Odisha. This move would not only boost the local economy but also showcase India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage to the world.

I urge the Government, through you, Sir, to take necessary steps to develop the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Niranjan Bisi: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).