

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), associated himself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Naresh Bansal.

**Demand to introduce Tejas coaches in Howrah and Sealdah Rajdhani Express trains**

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, Howrah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express is the oldest Rajdhani Express in the country. It started its journey long back in 1969. Later on, owing to the high demands of the passengers plying between Delhi and Kolkata and to ease down the existing pressure of bookings on the Howrah Rajdhani Express, Indian Railways introduced the Sealdah Rajdhani Express in the year 2000. Both these trains are presently plying with modern LHB coaches. While initially both these trains could be distinguished by their LHB coaches as other trains were having ICF coaches, the difference between the ordinary express trains and these Rajdhanis have dwindled in recent years owing to modernization efforts undertaken by the Indian Railways by way of replacing old ICF coaches of ordinary express trains with LHB ones. Indian Railways have of late introduced more modern Tejas coaches in several Rajdhani Express trains including Mumbai Central-New Delhi, Rajendra Nagar Terminal-New Delhi, Bhubaneswar-New Delhi, etc. Accordingly, I request the Ministry of Railways, Government of India to consider introduction of modern Tejas coaches in Howrah and Sealdah Rajdhani Express trains.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sanjeev Arora; not present, Shri Shambhu Sharan Patel; not present. Now, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

**Repatriation of smuggled stolen Indian antiquities from foreign countries**

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY (WEST BENGAL): As per reports published in indianculture.gov.in and various news reports published in national dailies till recently, it appears that many Indian antiquities stolen from different temples and museums across the country were smuggled out from time to time found to be stored in various museums and private galleries/auction centers in foreign countries. However, some of those antiquities started being repatriated to India since past few decades due to bilateral investigations and diplomatic initiatives taken by India and the concerned countries. The Metropolitan Museum of New York alone returned hundreds of such stolen Indian antiquities in 2015-2016. Again in July, 2023, US Metropolitan Museum returned 105 trafficked Indian artefacts. Out of the latest repatriated antiquities, a few

date back to 1st century BC to 16th CE and originated from UP, West Bengal, Bihar, South India and other parts of the country. It is not known as to where the repatriated hundreds of antiquities are presently stored in India. I would request the Government to inform about the exact number of antiquities recovered from foreign countries, their places of origin and present places of storage. I would also urge upon the Government to return the recovered antiquities originated from Chandraketugarh and other archaeological sites of West Bengal to the State Archaeological Museum or Indian Museum in Kolkata so that the people of Bengal can have a sight of those invaluable artefacts and feel the pride of the past glories and rich histories of the concerned places.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray: Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Ms. Sushmita Dev (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned to meet at one hour after the conclusion of the presentation of the Union Budget, 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha tomorrow, that is, 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2024.

*The House then adjourned at forty-three minutes past two of the clock till Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024.*