

The initial proposal to hold it in Peshawar had to be given up because of Pakistan's objection to India's participation.

The significant elements of our position on the Afghanistan situation are

India fully supports the unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan. These are essential for the well-being of the Afghan people and given Afghanistan's strategic location for the peace and stability of the entire region.

A cessation of foreign interference in Afghanistan is an essential pre-requisite for the resolution of the situation.

There could be no military solution. The situation has to be resolved through peaceful discussions and negotiations between Afghan parties. A special responsibility devolves on Afghan leaders to forsake the path of confrontation and conflict and pursue peace which will lead to reconciliation, renewal and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

We fully support the efforts of the UNSG and those of his special representative in bringing peace to Afghanistan. The UN Special Mission on Afghanistan has pursued its task with patience and commitment. India is prepared to play its full part in supporting their efforts.

The cessation of violence and armed hostilities and the demilitarisation of Kabul would provide the right conditions for the political process. These should be actively pursued.

A cessation of arms supply to Afghanistan is required. The effective implementation of this idea would have to be carefully worked out.

The growth in drug trafficking and terrorism, which is a result of conflict in Afghanistan, are matters of concern.

We have been greatly disturbed and distressed at the denial of human rights, especially those of women, which have been recently witnessed in Afghanistan. We support the denunciation of these practices contained in the UN Security Council Resolution 1076. The Resolution denounces the discrimination against girls and women and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan and notes with deep concern possible repercussions on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan.

17.00 hrs.

In this context, I must make special mention of the brutal and abhorrent murder of former President Najibullah and his brother. As hon. Members are aware

the family of former President Najibullah has been in India since 1992. While personally condoling the death, I have conveyed to Mrs. Najibullah that while she would naturally be taking decisions about her future, she will always be an honoured guest among us and we will do all that is required to look after the welfare of the family.

Even during the uncertain conditions, we had continued humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, which we will continue. This has been in the form of medicines, foodstuff and clothing. We also conducted a month-long camp in Kabul in August-September 1996 for fitting artificial limbs on persons who had lost their limbs, mostly on account of land mines. Over 1100 such limbs were fitted in the camp.

We have recently seen credible reports in the international media on the Taliban handing over terrorist training facilities to the Harkat ul Ansar. It is reported that at these training camps, Pakistani and other youth are being trained for terrorist activities in Kashmir. I may assure the hon. Members that the Government of India and the people of our country continue to sustain their vigil and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard the country's security.

Our interaction with Afghanistan is constructive and positive. It is not directed against any other country. Its purpose is to assist in bringing peace and stability to a country with which we have civilizational affinities and are bound by ties of brotherhood, friendship and cooperation.

17 02 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to expedite opening of LPG outlets in Jhansi and Lalitpur districts of U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): I have come to know that an advertisement with regard to opening of an additional LPG agency of Bharat Petroleum in Lalitpur under Jhansi district of U.P. which is under my constituency and sanction for opening LPG outlets in Mehrauni and Talbehat towns has already been accorded. The decision to open three LPG agencies in Jhansi city and one LPG agency in Ranipur under Jhansi district during the annual plan 1994-95 has been taken and an advertisement has also been given in this regard. Besides Baruasagar, Chirgaon, Moth Gursarai and Bargaon cities have also included in the annual plan for the year 1995-96 for opening LPG agencies.

As per information given to me in regard thereto, no agency has yet started. I, therefore, urge upon the Petroleum Minister that all these agencies may be opened without any further delay so that the serious problem of LPG in my constituency could be solved.

(ii) Need to Declare Main Centre Road in Kerala as National Highway

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, the Main Centre Road in Kerala is a very important road which is connected to various towns in Travancore-Cochin area. There has been a tremendous increase in traffic on Trivandrum-Angamely segment of the Main Centre Road and a number of accidents are taking place in this road.

The Government of Kerala has recommended to the Central Government for according first priority and upgrading this road to a National Highway. This is a long pending demand of the people of this area to declare this road as a National Highway.

I request the Union Government to consider it seriously and take over the Main Centre Road to the National Highway System.

(iii) Need for an Overbridge near Chengalpattu Railway in Tamil Nadu

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpattu) : Sir, in my constituency of Chengalpattu, which is the first Railway Station Junction after Madras-Egmore, there is a road branching off from the Highway No. 45 near the Chengalpattu Railway Station Junction leading to Kalpakkam, Thirukkazhukundram and Mamallapuram, the famous tourist centre and the only sea port of the Pallava Kings during the Ninth and the Twelfth Centuries.

But just near the Chengalpattu Railway Station there is a railway track across the road leading to these important towns. There is always heavy traffic on this road because thousands of people and huge machineries have to go daily to Kalpakkam Atomic Power Centre, tourists to Thirukashukunram and the famous port-town, Mamallapuram of Pallava dynasty where historical monuments are preserved and exhibited to the tourists from all over the world.

Sir, thousands of people are put to a lot of difficulties daily due to closure of the railway gate at this point very frequently and also for continuously longer time especially during the busy hours. People have been demanding for the construction of an overbridge on this busy railway track at this crossing to avoid accidents

and also enable uninterrupted flow of traffic on this busy road.

I would therefore request the hon. Railway Minister kindly to consider a proposal for constructing an overbridge at this point and sanction the same so that construction of an overbridge can be taken in hand immediately.

(iv) Need to find permanent solution to the problem of flood in Deoria, Padrauna and Balia districts in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Ganga, Ghaghra, Rapti, Budi Gandak Gandak and Khanuwa rivers flow through Deoria Padrauna and Balia districts of U.P. These rivers get flooded every year resulting loss of crores of rupees. As a result of this economic condition of farmers gradually become worst putting them below the poverty line. Every year lakhs of rupees are spent on flood protection measures. After the flood situation returns to normal, attention of the Government is diverted from this and therefore no permanent solution is made.

I, therefore, would like to request the Central Government that funds may be allocated after conducting technical survey in this regard in order to have a permanent solution of this problem.

(v) Need for early opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jahanabad, Bihar.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jahanabad district of Bihar is considered to be terrorism affected area. The people of that area are illiterate. Terrorism, Casteism and Communalism is increasing there. I had written a letter to the then Education Minister, Shri Arjun Singh requesting him to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Jahanabad and he had forwarded the same to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. The Sangathan had informed the officers of the Sangathan posted at Jahanabad Branch about it. The officers had informed me that 15-acre of land would be required for construction of five rooms, administrative block with verandah, community Education hall, printing press, toilet. It is difficult to get 15 acres of land in urban areas. Therefore, the Government has reduced it and ultimately 10 acres of land of the farmers was made available. A metalled road was also constructed to link the school. A total sum of Rs. 1 crore has been spent on land and construction work etc. The collector, who is the Chairman of the school was asked to give project Report. The collector, after getting a video cassette, and some photographs, of the project sent a detailed report. But