

people of the country have some relief. The person like Shri Indrajit Gupta is sitting here who has been the Member of Parliament for the last 37 years and Shri Mulayam Singhji also had held higher positions. Therefore, I would like to request them that..

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He wants to become a Chief Minister.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : What is your objection to this. It is my humble submission that the Government should ponder over it and take action in public interest...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, just a minute please. I have a meeting of the BAC at 3 O' clock today. After that I will see whether or not there is a case for re-consideration of my ruling that I gave in the morning. I will come back to the House in 45 minutes time, or even earlier and then I will give my observation whether there is any case for re-consideration or not. In the meantime, Matters under Rule 377 and other listed business on the agenda could continue. But this matter would be discussed at 4 O' clock sharp. I will come back on the re-consideration matter.

Now, Shri Rameshwar Patidar.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 — Contd.

(ii) Need to provide facilities to pilgrims visiting Amarnath

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Pilgrimage to Amarnath is one of the most sacrosanct pilgrimage of Hindu religion, but today anyone who wants to avail the opportunity of pilgrimage to Amarnath, has to cover it in fear and panick. At every step, there is risk to his life. Last year also, the pilgrimage to Amarnath was carried out in an atmosphere full of threats from the terrorists.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide facilities and assistance to the Amarnath pilgrims as are provided to the Haj pilgrims.

15.02 hrs.

(Shri PM Sayeed in the Chair)

(iii) Need to release adequate funds out of the National Renewal Fund for Sick Textile Mills in Ahmedabad

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : There are 15 sick closed textile mills in Ahmedabad city. About

fifty thousand textile workers are jobless and their families are starving. Because of this deteriorating economy, Ahmedabad has suffered many social tensions including communal riots. Huge losses are incurred on nine nationalised textile mills.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to release adequate funds out of the National Renewal Fund so that these jobless workers may get some relief.

(iv) Need to ensure payment of dues of royalty on electricity to Himachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the state of Himachal Pradesh attained full statehood, the states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were created out of Punjab and the electricity generated there was also distributed between the two states, out of which provision was made to grant Himachal Pradesh 7.19 royalty whereas the State Government at present, is getting only 2.19 royalty. According to the ground adopted for this, the existing royalty is five per cent less. As such, neither the State Governments released funds to Himachal Pradesh according to the distribution made at that time, nor the Union Government issued instructions to the State Governments for releasing funds to Himachal Pradesh.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take action to ensure release of a sum of Rs 1400 crores due to Himachal Pradesh by these states so that there is no hindrance in the development programmes of Himachal Pradesh.

(v) Need to provide compensation to the people affected by sand casting due to construction of Mandira Dam in Orissa

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the sand casting of hundreds of acres of land of the tribals by Mandira Dam. Mandira Dam has been constructed in order to supply water to Rourkela Steel Plant. Some thirty-two tribal villages were displaced for the construction of this Dam. Due to this dam there is sand casting in the upper part of the dam on the hundreds of acres of land of the tribals.

I urge upon the Government to give due compensation to the families whose cultivable land is under the sand casting. I would also urge upon

the Government to provide job to atleast one person from each of such affected families in Rourkela Steel Plant.

(vi) Need to accord early clearance to Nabinagar Thermal Power Project, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad). Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar State is facing acute power crisis. Power is supplied only for two days a week to the people resulting in withering away of crops of farmers and closure of small scale industries. Resources of self-employment among the youths are vanishing and normal life of the state is disturbed.

To solve the power crisis there is a proposal to set-up a Thermal Power Project with 1000 MW capacity in Nabinagar under my Parliamentary constituency.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to take effective steps for arrangement of power supply at the earliest by sanctioning the proposed Nabinagar Thermal Power Project in public interest.

(vii) Need to set up an LPG Bottling Plant at Jalpaiguri or Siliguri

[English]

PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the acute shortage of LPG in the Divisional Headquarters, Jalpaiguri.

About 5000 applications seeking LPG connections are pending with the existing dealers. Irregular supply of LPG cylinders to the consumers is creating another crisis in the area which leads to road blocking by the people. The people of the area are very much agitated over these issues. This is not only the crisis in Jalpaiguri alone but same situation prevails in all the districts of North Bengal.

I urge upon the Union Government either to increase LPG quota to the existing dealers or to sanction more dealership in the area to meet the backlog and defuse the crisis of LPG cylinder supply to the consumers regularly. I also request to set up an LPG bottling plant at Jalpaiguri or at Siliguri at an early date to meet the demand of the districts of North Bengal.

(viii) Need to allocate sufficient funds for early completion of Madras Rapid Transport System Project

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Madras being

one of the important metropolitan cities of India should have a circular Rapid Railway Transport System to avoid traffic congestion, maintain the ecological balance and for speedy transportation of commuters and the general public.

The Madras Rapid Transport System (MRTS) which envisaged by the Madras Area Transport Study Unit of Southern Railway during 1968-70 and was cleared by the Planning Commission in 1969 has not yet been completed. The project cost for Madras Beach to Luz Mylepore section was estimated at Rs. 160.21 crore in 1987 and it escalated to Rs. 252 crore in 1996 to cover a distance of 8.79 Km. The project has been completed upto Chepauk only and the same has been opened up for traffic.

The second phase between Luz to Vallachery to cover a distance of 10.32 Km. is yet to be taken up. The third phase from Vellachery to Villivakkam and finally from Villivakkam to Avadi via Vellachery is to be taken up after completion of the second phase.

I request the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds in the ensuing Budget to speed up the project with a commitment to complete the project at least upto Luz by March, 1977 and the second and third phases to be taken up immediately for execution.

15.09 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION BY
PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H D DEVE GOWDA) : I beg to move :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation dated the 18th July, 1990 in respect of Jammu and Kashmir, issued under Article 36 of the Constitution by the President for a further period of six months with effect from the 18th July, 1996"

Sir, the President's rule in Jammu & Kashmir is coming to an end on 18th July, 1996 and we want its extension for a short duration. Though we are asking for extension for a further period of six months, I would like to make it amply clear to this august House that the Government has already taken a decision to hold election as early as possible. In this