

Legislative Assembly constituency reserved for scheduled Tribe and is famous as an important cultural centre of Assam. Due to constant erosion posed by the river Brahmaputra specially during rainy season, the very existence of this island is in danger. During the last two decades, the total area of the island was reduced by one-third of the total original boundary. The proposal for connecting the island to other parts of the State by road communication was not materialised due to insufficient funds. The N.E.C. took up the scheme during the 7th plan and work order was also in given to the India Railway Construction Corpn. for construction of two permanent bridges over Lohit and Khabolu. Unfortunately the proposal was left abandoned without any known reason .. (Interruptions) Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to initiate appropriate steps to protect the island by drawing suitable scheme for preventing erosion, by implementing the proposal for construction of the bridge over Luit and Khabolu river and to draw appropriate development scheme for developing the island to a tourist spot of international standard ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a point about constitutional impropriety. Under Article 87(1), President has addressed both the Houses of Parliament on 24th May. Now the Address has become the property of the House. Under Article 87(2), the House shall find time to discuss the President's Address. Since the Government which was responsible for the President's Address has resigned, a lot of debate is taking place in the media and confusion has arisen in the minds of the public.

Today being the last day of the session and since I do not find the subject in the list of business, I want to know from the Chair regarding the fate of the Address, whether the Address will be discussed on the floor of the House or it will be infructuous. Sir, I want your ruling on this matter...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOHANVEER (Muzaffarnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Muzaffarnagar district of Western Uttar Pradesh about 13 crore quintal of sugarcane is produced out of which the sugar mills are able to crush only 35 percent sugarcane. In my district, there are seven sugar mills, out of these two mills are lying closed. Therefore, farmers have to carry their sugarcane to those mills which are 125-150 kilometres away from their fields. The Superintendent of Police of Khatauli district has set up a check post at Triveni Sugar Mill and the police resort to lathi charge on the farmers. The Police Administration is under complete control of the mill owner. That is why, payment is not being made to the farmers for

their sugarcane. Moreover, sugarcane is under weighed under the protection of the Police. In the absence of getting full payment for their sugarcane, the farmers are not able to get their daughters married. Therefore, through you, I would like to request that the Government should pay attention to this problem.

Similarly, the trading in 'gur' mandi of Muzaffarnagar has gone down to ten percent. As far as crimes are concerned, Muzaffarnagar has reached the top position. Businessmen are murdered there every month. The police is not paying attention towards this problem. It is only resorting to lathicharge on the farmers. This area comes at second or third place, as far as crimes in the world over are concerned. I would like to request that the incidents of crimes should be checked there, farmers should not be exploited and payment should be made to them for their sugarcane.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Uma ji, you should speak for only half-a-minute.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my Lok Sabha constituency, Khajuraho, there is an acute shortage of water. Women have to trudge ten to fifteen miles to fetch drinking water. This is not only the problem of Khajuraho but entire Madhya Pradesh is experiencing acute shortage of drinking water. The Government of Congress Party in Madhya Pradesh is not able to resolve this crisis. Therefore, through you, I request that special grant should be provided to resolve the problem of drinking water in Khajuraho.

[English]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a great Constitutional crisis has arisen in Assam. As we all know, in the four upper districts of Assam - Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur and other districts - army operation is going on against the militants. I do not want to go into the merits of the army operation.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot go into it also.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : The issue I want to raise is that the Chief Minister of Assam has said that he is not aware of the army operations. Nobody has informed him about it. He is on record and it has come out in the newspapers also that he has contacted the hon. Prime Minister and Government of India. The Government has also not come out openly whether it has or it has not given order for these army operations. That is why the people of Assam are agitating.

MR. SPEAKER : You may conclude now.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : The people of Assam want to know as to how the army operations can be carried out on their own when the State Governments, who is primarily responsible for law and order, is not aware of it or the Union Government is not aware of it. Therefore, I request that the Union Government should come out openly and make a statement in this regard. I hope they will make a statement at the earliest.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, I am not raising any controversial issue in the House. I would only like to submit that today is the last day of the Session. I read in the newspapers that the Prime Minister has agreed to have a Secretarial level meeting with Pakistan. At the backdrop of successful completion of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, I request that, through you, the entire House must express our total solidarity and support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have expressed their profound faith in the Constitution of India ignoring threat of international terrorist gangs. At the backdrop of this if, through you or through the Prime Minister, the solidarity of this House is expressed it will give a great solace to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Central Government towards my Lok Sabha Constituency, Katihar. There are two jute mills in Katihar in which a large number of labourers are engaged. But for the last many years, Katihar jute mill is lying closed which has affected 3000 families and they are on the verge of starvation I would like to make my humble submission to the hon. Prime Minister that necessary action may be taken at the earliest for reopening of these mills. It will not only benefit the labourers engaged in it but also the farmers of Kosi Circle who produce jute and whose livelihood depends upon these mills.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

Leader of Opposition in Parliament (Allowances, Medical and other Facilities Amendment Rules, 1996.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Leaders of Opposition in Parliament (Allowances, Medical and other Facilities) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English

Versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 211 (E) in Gazette of India dated 15th May, 1996, under sub-section(3) of Section 10 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 18/96]

12.05 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for early functioning of Airstrip at Paliakalan, Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P.**

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency, Lakhimpur Kheri is contiguous to Nepal border. Construction of an airstrip at Paliakalan had been completed about one year ago. The local villagers would start encroachment on the land of this airstrip, if it is not made functional soon. Rainy season is likely to start and it is a flood prone area. At that time, it would be difficult for the local administration to stop the encroachment. It is an important airstrip which is situated between Kathmandu and Bareilly and is about 500 k.m. away from Nepal border. I, therefore, request the Government to make this airstrip functional at the earliest.

- (ii) **Need to provide Financial Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh to solve acute drinking water problem in the State.**

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is facing acute shortage of drinking water. I request the Central Government to issue necessary instructions for providing assistance and making arrangement for supply of drinking water in the State.

- (iii) **Need to run a train between Delhi and Ajmer on newly laid broad gauge line.**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newly laid broad gauge line between Delhi and Ajmer was inaugurated by the then Railway Minister on 5th June 1995. More than one year has elapsed but no train has been introduced on this broad gauge line which was constructed by spending crores of rupees. It has resulted in resentment among the lakhs of people of Ajmer. In spite of several requests made by various political parties, representatives of people and organisations no train has been introduced so far between Delhi and Ajmer for the benefit of common people.