

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (MONGHYR): Sir, Zero hour should have been given at least one an hour's time:

MR. CHAIRMAN: There shall be a Zero Hour tomorrow. Mandalji, you speak everyday.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bihar will not get chance to speak just now. Discussion is going on under rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

14.14 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up Matters Under Rule 377. Shri Hansraj Ahir.

(i) Need to Open G.P.O. in Gadachiroli District, Maharashtra for better Postal Services

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, Garhchiroli district in Maharashtra is a backward and tribal dominated area. Chandrapur was divided in 1982 and a separate district was created to accelerate the developmental works. But the new district has not been provided with a Head Post-Office till date. Postal services of this district is being carried out by the Head-Post Office, Chandrapur. There is totally mismanagement due to this in the Postal Services here, and people are facing difficulties due to lack of Postal services. The delivery of letters in inaccessible areas is a general problem here. As a result many unemployed and other people do not get important informations on time. It is urgently required to provide postal services properly in this naxalite affected area in order to bring it in the main stream of development.

Hence, I request the Government of India to open post offices in the inaccessible areas and a Head Post Office at the district level.

(ii) Need to Set up Mineral orebased Industries in Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT (BALAGHAT): Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh is a no-industry district. Mangnese and Copper is abundently available in the district. Besides, good quality of minerals like Granite, lime stone, Donamite and Teak wood as well as Bamboo is also available in abundance. Even then there is no industry here, resulting in unemployment and people's large scale migration in search of employment to other areas which creates an imbalance in the development in the country. Due to availability of raw materials, Paper mills and Sugar mills and other mineral based industries can be established here.

I request Central Government to conduct a survey in this area and by establishing industries with the assistance of Centre and State Governments industries should be set up help in the development of this backward area.

(iii) Need to Review Ban Imposed on Export and Free Movement of Potatoes Within the Country

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI): Sir, the potato production this year in West Bengal has been of record high touching the quantity of about seventy million tonnes. The existing cold storage capacity in the State is not in a position to accommodate even half of the total production. Being unable to preserve their produce, the farmers are being compelled to sell potatoes at sixty to sixty-five paise per kilogram in the market which is far less than the actual production cost. The State Government has been put to a very hard situation. It cannot also resort to purchase by paying remunerative price for distress sales of potatoes due to lack of storage capacity. Further, the Central Government has put ban on the export and movement of potatoes from West Bengal to other States. The neighbouring country, Bangladesh is willing to purchase potatoes from our country. so, the lifting of the ban on export to other countries and movement to other States of our country, of potatoes grown in West Bengal will immensely facilitate the producers to get some relief.

I urge upon the Central Government to review urgently all the aspects of export and free movement of potatoes within the country and lift the ban on export of potatoes to protect the interests of potato-growers of West Bengal.

(iv) Need to Clear Backlog of Telephone Connections in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (NAGERCOIL): Sir, the telephone exchanges of Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, namely Nagercoil, Painkulam, Karungal, Neyyoor, Kollencode, Arumanai, Kulashekaram and Thuckalay have long-pending waiting lists. A ten-thousand line new technology system is sanctioned by the Department of Telecommunications for Nagercoil, the headquarters of Kanyakumari district. But, so far, the work has not started. Thus, naturally the waiting list has largely increased. Though it was reported by the telecom authorities that new technology equipments and Remote Switching Unit (RSU) would be provided, they are not implemented because of the absence of optic fibre and microwave medium linkage between the exchanges. It is due to the delay in allocation of funds and materials. The Department of Telecommunications has also announced to make arrangements for the expansion of Painkulam and Neyyoor exchanges. But, so far, no follow-up action has been taken.

So, I urge upon the Government to pass immediate orders for the expansion of the Nagercoil, Painkulam, Karungal, Neyyoor, Kollencode, Arumanai, Kulashekaram and Thuckalay exchanges in Kanyakumari district to clear up the long waiting lists by allocating funds to provide new technology and other equipments.

(v) Need for Immediate Gauge Conversion Work of Makum-Dangori Section in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): The

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

Makum-Dangori section is a 30 kilometre long stretch of metre gauge railway track which forms part of the 80 kilometre long Dibru-Sadia railway line set up by the British in 1881. This line assumes great importance from historical and emotional point of view as being the first railway track in the North-Eastern region. It was the oldest means of modern transport to this remote corner of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh inhabited predominantly by aboriginal tribes and backward communities.

After the development of township and railway terminus at Tinsukia for Delhi bound trains, the track between Dangori and Makum got deserted and this 30 kilometre track got neglected. Recently, there was public resentment when the North-Eastern Railway attempted to abandon this line by dismantling and auctioning the existing infrastructure. When the country has opted for "project unigauge" all over its territories, keeping a track of only 30 kilometre as metre gauge is not at all convincing.

I, therefore, urge upon the Railway Minister to take up immediate gauge conversion of this portion as survey for broad gauge conversion was completed during the Eighth Plan period. This may be taken up by providing adequate allocation in the supplementary Budget during the current financial year.

(vi) Need to Provide Express Train Service Between Kota and Bhopal

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Chairman Sir, Three trains connecting Kota city with Madhya Pradesh are running under Central Railway. All the three trains viz. Kota-Bhopal, Kota-Bina, and Kota-Damoh are local ones. Thus, these trains cover the distance of 100 kms between Kota and Bhopal in 18-20 hours whereas buses take only 8-10 hours to complete the journey. I am continuously demanding to run any one of these trains as an express train but my demand has not been met so far.

Therefore, I request to Central Government to run Kota-Bhopal passenger train as an express train.

(vii) Need to take Concrete Steps to Check Smuggling Along Seashore in the Country, Particularly in Gujrat.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAJ CHIKHALIA (JUNAGADH): Mr. Chairman Sir, Hashish, Heroine, explosive materials and currency are being smuggled into our country along the seashore of Kuccha-Saurashtra inspite of custom's police and Navy patrolling. During the festival days the quantum of smuggling increases. Two-three months ago, at Porbander a red Pakistani boat was found abandoned in front of red light meant for signalling the ships. Cleaner and other staff of that boat ran away. Some boxes were unloaded at seashore along Subhash Nagar at Porbandar, and nothing is known regarding that till date. Through you I would like to request Central Government

to take effective measures to check the large scale smuggling along the seashore and intensify the patrolling.

(viii) Need for Early Completion of Renovation Work of New Railway Station Buildings at Karad and Satara, Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister of Railways had laid the foundation stone of renovation of new Railway Station buildings at Karad and Satara Railway Stations of South Central Railway. However, the work has not yet been completed.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to ensure that renovation work of Karad and Satara Railways Stations in my constituency is completed early.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Problems of Textiles Industry—Contd.

14.26 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up further discussion regarding problems of Textiles Industry. Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar will continue his speech.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday I quoted a news item which appeared in the newspaper regarding the closing down of 120 textile mills. Today, to my utter surprise, I have seen the news item again in the newspaper which says.

[Translation]

'Decision to close down 70 textile mills'.

[English]

So, out of 120, they have already decided to close down 70 textile mills and render about 50,000 workmen jobless. This being the situation, now we will have to think over the entire policy of the Government as to what the Government is going to do with these labourers.

Sir, if you look at the industry, you will find that the industry was not incurring any loss. On the contrary, according to reports, this industry was making huge profit. I do not know what had happened all of a sudden that the industry had become sick. Then, most of the employers closed down the mills and referred the matter to the B.I.F.R. They started further proceedings because they were fully aware that the workmen were not in a position to run the mills on cooperative society basis. That is why, alternatively, they sought a solution by saying that the land of the mills should be sold away and the money accrued from it should be utilised for housing purpose and some other purposes.

Yesterday also, you said that the unions are in favour