

Oil India Limited is going there to establish its office. It is an urgent matter. So, I request the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, through you, to instruct the concerned officials and the Oil India Limited to immediately dispose off the cases so that the office is immediately shifted and the cultivators get the compensation which is due to them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the national highways of my constituency. Roads are in dilapidated condition and accidents occur frequently and many have lost lives. For example on G.T. road, Ranchi-Tata road, Ranchi-Patna Road, Ranchi-Gumla Road, Chandil-Purulia Road, Ramgarh-Bokaro road, etc. one to three four feet deep pits have come up. These roads are in a very pitiable condition. The work on national highways is not done properly and the roads built afresh could not work for even one month. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this problem. In the forest area of our constituency, for example in Ranchi, there are two to four rivers which have no bridges due to which people live in islands for six months all-together. Even an amount of Rs. two-to four crores is not spent there. People live like they were on an island... (Interruptions) Thousands of families are affected.

Sir, I would like to quote only the names. The construction of bridges on Silli, Chandel, Bhaya, Barendra and Radhu rivers at Silli, AndonRadhu at Paeeka, and on Kanchi river near Banku is a must one. If bridges are built on these rivers, it would be very beneficial to the farmers. Alongwith this, the condition of village roads is very pitiable, and I want that the Government of India should allocate money for that and get it constructed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

13.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at forty six Minutes Past-fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the many people who died in the truck accidents

two days back, they all belonged to one village Arai in my constituency. Yesterday, I went there and met the family members affected by it. The death of so many people of one village is first incident in my life. I have not heard like this before. Today that village gives a deserted look. 11 persons have died from one joint family 7 have died from another family and many families are such that nobody is left except crying children. Here and there, one or two women are left. Here it leads to social problem. Through you, we want to attract the attention of the Central Government. State Government has announced to give one lakh of rupees as compensation but there are several such problems about which the Central Government should also think. When such type of incidents take place, what sort of help should be tendered for this. A permanent fund should be established.

The second thing is that in such incidents, bad roads are solely responsible for the mishap. The road has been built many years back. I tried several times to get this road repaired but the road is in dilapidated condition. The driver lost the concentration and the truck went upside down and the accident took place. The pit nearby the road was full of water and people fell into it. The truck which was loaded with metals fell down on the people. Most of them died due to suffocation. Some people were rescued by local efforts. At the time of incident, people gathered from the nearby places. When they narrated the story, it appeared that due to bad condition of the road, this accident took place. The people of this area have been demanding the repair of the road since long there. As a public representative I have been voicing their problem. In villages, roads are built but they are not maintained properly. The Union Government sanctions money for the construction of roads under its minimum needs programme under head of Employment Guarantee Scheme and Jawahar Rojgar Yozna, but due to the lack of funds for repairing these roads remain in damaged condition because once roads are constructed repair work does not carried out regularly. We can not provide money for repairing under the Local Development Scheme, though we can sanction money for the construction of roads. So the funds which are available we should utilise that for repairing of the roads. There should also be a provision for the extension and repairing of the roads in rural areas. I would like to request that keeping in view social responsibility those families which have been displaced due to this incident may be provided help by the Government. A representative of Central Government should go there and take stock of the position and provide help for rehabilitation of victim families whose financial position is very bad. In this hour of crisis this assistance from Central Government will be proved helpful to them. I think the House is agree with my views. I express my grief for the victim families and pray to God give them strength to bear this tragedy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my feelings over this incident.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Though the time for Zero hour was over but this incident is very serious.

[English]

The Government should take note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Ballia) (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also express our sorrow. You should direct Government to do something in this regard so that such incidents do not occur in future.

14.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Represent Farmers interests on the Agricultural Price Commission

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is mainly an agricultural country. Its economy is based on agriculture, but Government is very much in different towards the interests of farmers. During the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 prices of various commodities have all along been increasing but there has been negligible increase in the prices of basic agricultural produce of farmers.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to reconstitute Agricultural Price Commission. The Commission should have a representative from the farmers' side any they should get prices on the basis of their cost of production.

(ii) Need to Formulate Concrete Policies for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to make National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission more effective

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, objects and Programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country are being finalised. The targets fixed for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last Five Year Plans have not achieved. There hasn't come any expected change in the social educational and economic backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes. The Vacancies reserved for them in Government and administrative services have not been fulfilled. Employment opportunities to educated and uneducated people haven't been ensured. Social equality among the citizens and respect for all in the country has been established even after 50 years of independence. Till now the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and suggestions of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Welfare have been ignored.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to eliminate all disparities targets for welfare and social-educational-economic security and upliftment of the SCs and STs may be clearly fixed and implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The steps should be taken to make National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe more effective and ensure two seats for Scheduled Castes and one seat for Scheduled Tribes in the Commission.

(iii) Need to Recall the Sacrifices made by Tribal Heroes during the Freedom Struggle

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : The nation is celebrating the 50th year of Independence. We remember those who laid their lives in the struggle for freedom. But there are many who have become the forgotten chapters in the Indian history of freedom struggle. I draw the attention of the Government on the floor of the House, the Tribal heroes of Eastern India whom the Nation is yet to give due recognition. They are Birsa Munda, Nirmal Munda, Dharanidhar, Laxman Naik, Bhima Bhoi, Surendra Sai, Sidhu Kanhu, Rani Gaidinliu and many others who fought fierce battle in the thick jungles of Eastern India.

I would request the Union Government to encourage private entrepreneurs to go for documentary films on these heroes. Government should also come forward to give them befitting respect for their contribution in the freedom struggle.

(iv) Need to Name the National Institute of Mass Communication after Dr. Radha Nath Rath, a Veteran Freedom Fighter of Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Dr. Radha Nath Rath of Orissa is a leading freedom fighter and a veteran journalist. He has left his indelible impression in various fields of life, social, political and cultural. Although he has entered 101st year on last 6th December, he still continues to be the Editor of the leading Oriya daily *The Samaj* founded by late Utkal Mani Gopa Bandhu Das, who was known as the Gandhi of Orissa. In recognition of his selfless services rendered in different fields, his centenary celebration was organised in the State of Orissa and also outside Orissa throughout the year from 6th December, 1995 to 6th December, 1996. In this background, it will be indeed a good gesture and a befitting tribute to this distinguished son of the country to name the National Institute of Mass Communication after him.

(v) Need to clear the backlog in Vacancies for SC/STs

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : The backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs and STs in Govt. offices