

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into that ...

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir you cannot allow him to speak. If you are allowing him to speak then we must also be allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : This area has been the birthplace of great souls. This area was the birthplace of Rukmaniji.

MR. SPEAKER : No. You keep on raising the same issue every day.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAIPAYEE (LUCKNOW) : People here are very outspoken and it seems that they are also very much sufferers. Please give them two minutes to make their point clear as we are leaving tomorrow with bag and baggage.

MR. SPEAKER : You are continuing this daily.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Please allow us also to speak. It could not be completed. We have not spoken.

MR. SPEAKER : Vajpayeeji day before yesterday I had given permission for this and it has been discussed. This question was raised yesterday and if you want to raise it today also then how the House will function

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing at all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I was not allowed to speak yesterday. Sir, please recognise me. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Sir.

Now, we shall take up matters under Rule 377.

13.15 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to take complete measures for Conservation and Protection of Khajuraho Temples

SHRI BANWARI UMA BHARATI (KHAJURAHO) : Mr. Speaker, today, Khajuraho temples of Madhya Pradesh

occupies a very important place not only in the country but also in foreign countries. Every year, millions of tourists visit to see these temples. With the influx of tourists, country gets millions of rupees as income. But the sad part of this is that the cracks that developed in the ancient temples of Khajuraho built in the Ninth-Tenth Century has created a great danger to these temples. If the work of repairing is not carried out immediately, these temples will be in danger. Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards this immediately. The Khajuraho temples are the special attraction for the tourists. Therefore, sufficient attention should be given towards their maintenance and protection, which is not being paid at present. permission for construction all around the temple complex has been given in violation of the rules. Unauthorised construction is damaging the beauty of temple-complex.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to take effective measures in this regard

(ii) Need to enquire into the Discrimination in wages of workers of NTPC

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (HAPUR) : Sir, the NTPC management has not done justice in regard to the wage revision of all the workers employed in NTPC. Sir, NTPC management has given its officers two increments, by deviating from the BPE guidelines prescribed by the Government of India, whereas the workers were denied any increment on the plea that they cannot do any such thing which is deviating from the BPE guidelines. So, justice has not been done to NTPC workers. Therefore, the need is that the workers should also be given equal increments.

I demand from the Central Government that the Hon'ble Minister of Power should issue order to give two increments to the workers in the same way as they are given to the officers.

[English]

(iii) Need to Retain Fish Research Centre at Burla, Orissa

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (SAMBALPUR) : Sir, the people of Orissa are very much agitated over the news of shifting of the Regional Fish Research Centre from Burla to Madhya Pradesh. The Government of India opened two Regional Fish Research Centres in 1963, one at Bhakranangal in Punjab and another at Burla in Orissa. Subsequently the Bhakranangal Research Centre was closed. Thus the Regional Fish Research Centre at Burla now is the only one Fish Research Centre in the entire country. The research undertaken in that Institute has helped a lot in the development of fish resources in the country. Orissa, a maritime State, comprises 480 kms. of coastal belt, 6.50 lakh hectares of fresh water and 4.40 hectares of brackish water areas, estuarine and lagoons. A number of fish development agencies have

been set up in the State which are getting a lot of help and guidance from that Fish Research Centre. So, there is every justification that the Research Centre should remain in Burla. Unfortunately efforts are being made by the vested interest to shift that Research Centre from Burla to a place where it has nothing to do with fishing.

In view of this, I request the Central Government that the Regional Fish Research Centre at Burla should not be shifted to any other place and it should be expanded further to give a boost to research and development in the field of fishing in India.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to open more Post offices in Jahanabad District, Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (JAHANABAD): Sir, India is a Federal country, where Bihar is a state. Bihar is considered as a backward state. No new post office has been opened in my constituency, Jhanabad. Branch post offices may be opened in Kewari, Harisingara villages of Khikarsarai block in Gaya district, Chakronia village of Masorhi block, Sahapur village of Dhanrua block, Bhavanipur and Daharpur villages of Ghosi block in Patna district. In these village letters and moneyorders do not reach to the people in time thereby disturbing the work of the people. The Head Post office at Jahanabad should be upgraded as Jahanabad is District Headquarter.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that immediate necessary action may be taken in this regard.

[English]

(v) Need to take thumb impression of Voters while preparing Voters List for use in General Elections

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, the system of giving identity cards for all voters in India, though laudable, is highly expensive and difficult. Another system has also to be thought of, as this is most important for our democratic system.

While casting votes in general elections either signature or thumb impression of each voter is taken in polling booth. Thumb impression of one person differs from another person and is, therefore, best proof of identity. We can have a system of taking thumb impression of voters while voters' list itself is prepared. The voters' list should have thumb impression of each voter. His thumb impression can be taken at the time of voting also as is being done now. Comparison of the impression on voters' list with the impression given in the polling booth makes best proof for voters' identity. Even with naked eye, these can be compared. A magnifying glass in a polling station can make this foolproof. At any rate, the foolproof comparison by experts is possible when there are more challenged votes or at later stages during election petitions. Severe punishment can be proposed for wrong-doers.

This can completely stop booth capturing and other illegal ways of fraud on voting.

I request the Central Government to make a study of such a system and to implement it in our general elections.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to provide adequate quota of tarcoal to Gujrat

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : Sir, Gujrat has been facing acute shortage of Damar (Coaltar) for the last many years. However, due to summer being at its peak in the last season, the production of Damar was less and inadequate arrangement of loading in coal refineries had its effect on the development of the State.

The Government of Gujrat took up the matter with Central Government and also wrote many letters in this regard but the reply was that the matter is under consideration and no further action was taken. In the year 1996-97, Gujrat has demanded two lakh tonnes of coaltar.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government that in view of the development of Gujrat, this problem may be resolved at the earliest and the State may be provided Damar (coaltar) as per its requirement.

(vii) Need to continue the practice of conversion of leasehold properties into freehold in Delhi

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Sir, the Government had fixed 31-8-96 as last date for conversion of leasehold properties into freehold in Delhi. It is in the interest of both the Government and the people to continue this scheme for ever. It would be better to continue it atleast for one more year.

Besides, the scheme for conversion of leasehold plots measuring upto 200 sq. yards into freehold may also be introduced so that people can avail of this benefit and the Government can earn crores of rupees. For this I request through you to the Central Government that a new scheme for conversion of leasehold plots (land) alongwith leasehold properties in Delhi into freehold may be introduced without any further delay so that the people of Delhi may get some relief.

[English]

(viii) Need for early conversion of Nizamabad and Mudkhed to Metre Gauge Railway line into Broad Gauge

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (NIZAMABAD) : Sir, Nizamabad, though a backward region in Andhra Pradesh, yet, is one of the biggest trading partners with Nanded town bordering Maharashtra via Mudkhed. At present, Nizamabad town is connected with Mudkhed by metre gauge line, with the result the transshipment of goods takes place at Mudkhed for onward transportation to Nanded and Bombay, which involves additional