

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA (PANNONI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, please continue zero hour to-day, so that we may be able to speak on the notice given by us, otherwise backlog would continue to pile up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will be allowed to accumulate, we shall allow all tomorrow, please worry not.

14.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) **Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of U.P. for providing adequate relief to the people affected by floods in Khurja Parliamentary Constituency.**

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA): Sir, in my parliamentary constituency, problem of serious flood situation due to the Yamuna river in Dadri, Sikandrabad and Jewar assembly constituencies still persists. Not only that, even appropriate relief measures are not being taken nor required commodities being made available to the affected families. Now the situation has come to a point where in various villages falling in the above mentioned assembly constituencies, water logging has started on a big scale. I have visited the flood affected areas during the last few days and I have requested the officials of the irrigation department to take all possible steps for solving the grave problem being faced by the people in those areas. But the trouble is that senior officials of the irrigation department are claiming that the situation is under control and everything is alright, whereas the reality is just the opposite of it.

Hence, I request the Central Govt. to provide adequate financial help to the U.P. Govt. for arranging relief measures and necessary commodities for the flood affected people in villages in Dadri, Sikandrabad and Jewar assembly constituencies in my Khurja Parliamentary constituency suffering due to heavy floods in the Yamuna river, and thereafter to provide appropriate compensation to the flood affected families, and also to direct that stern action should be taken immediately against the officials of the irrigation department, who are working carelessly and sluggishly without paying due attention to the enormity and bigness of the problem faced by the people there.

[English]

- (ii) **Need for repair of Dam on Ganga between Kajarganj and Nardoli in Etah district, U.P.**

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH 'SHAKYA' (ETAH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the

irrigation minister to an urgent matter of public importance. I have been elected to this House from the Etah Parliamentary constituency. The Ganga river flows on the eastern side of my constituency, as a result of which many villages are adversely affected every year on account of floods in the river Ganga. A dam was constructed by the Govt. to check flood water, from Kajarganj to Nardoli, which has broken down at some places during the years causing heavy loss of life and property during the last two years.

I request the Hon. Minister to ensure that the dam is repaired and made fit as it was before, so that it may discharge its function properly.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (VIDISHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. So, he should reply, as the flood situation is serious.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is the Agriculture Minister prepared to say something. He may say in one minute.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the issue raised by the Hon. Minister in regard to flood situation and the problems created by it has engaged our attention also and I have talked about it to the Governor's advisor Shri Jain. U.P. Govt. has got the money of the calamity Relief Fund and with it the Govt. is managing the problem. If they required more money, they may send a memorandum to us. On receipt of such a Memorandum we shall send our Central team there, on that basis we shall act according to the report of that team for supplying more aid.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the floods are furious. It will be in the fitness of things if Bihar is also covered in the reply.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the floods affect all, but 377 shall cover all, does it happen so?

[English]

- (iii) **Need for Effective Steps to Eradicate Poverty in Kalahandi-Bolangir area in Orissa.**

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (PURI): Sir, I wish to invite the attention of this august House to the poverty-stricken and starvation-ridden tribal pockets in Kalahandi-Bolangir-Korgput areas of Orissa. Poverty is so deep-rooted there, that every year, a number of starvation deaths are reported from this area. For months together, the people have no foodgrains to eat, and they have to depend on crushed mango seeds.

A special programme for accelerated development of these identified specially backward areas costing around Rs. 4557.30 crore was laid down, at the instance of the

former Prime Minister. These areas comprised eight districts, 14 sub-divisions, 33 tehsils, 80 blocks, 1171 Gram Panchayats and 1201 revenue villages of KSK areas. Action plan was to be implemented with resources from the Central Government, State Government, Centrally sponsored schemes and Special Central Assistance.

According to Government's own admission, in reply to a recent question in Parliament, during this Session, the implementation is highly unsatisfactory and to say the least, is tardy.

I would, therefore, request the Government to see to it that the Action Plan be implemented as per a time bound scheme.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mishra, only approved text has to be read. That will come in the record. Whatever you have read beyond that, will not be recorded.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to expedite execution of Srisailem Left Bank canal in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh.

DR B.N. REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Execution of Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) in Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh, proposed to use 30 tmc of Krishna River water to irrigate a few lakh acres in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, has been delayed for several years, though a portion of canal is excavated and left without any progress.

Incompletion of this project by the successive Governments in Andhra Pradesh led to people filing 480 nominations for Nalgonda Parliamentary Constituency which delayed the polling by one month. The polling was done on 27.5.96 instead of 27-4-96.

Sir, this was done by the people of Miryalguda and Nalgonda Parliamentary Constituency to bring the importance of the SLBC to the notice of the Central Government. Hence, I request the Government to take up this matter immediately and complete the project on war-footing.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to introduce Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in all the blocks of Sitamarhi District in Bihar.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, due to heavy floods in Sitamarhi district in Bihar, there has been destruction and loss on a big scale. Hundreds of persons have died and crops worth crores of rupees have been destroyed. All the major roads and bridges in the district have been badly damaged, as a result of which movement of people from a place to an

other place has come to a stand-still. Unemployment and starvation in rural areas are on a large scale, which has compelled poor peasants and labourers to leave and go to other places for earning livelihood. Main roads, bridges, culverts and rural roads are so much damaged that people find it very difficult to move from one place to another. The state Govt. has not got adequate funds to distribute adequate money to all districts for repairs works.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Govt. to ensure implementation of employment scheme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana immediately in all blocks of Sitamarhi district of Bihar with a view to improve the condition of people and remove unemployment there.

When Hon. Minister...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing beyond it.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI: He has said that Bihar cannot be covered. We have raised the matter with regard to Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bihar has been covered.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is alright. It is over now.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI: We have demanded Employment Assurance scheme for all blocks in Sitamarhi district....(*Interruptions*) . The Minister for Rural Development is also present....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you like to say something?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): It is correct that the condition of Sitamarhi district is very bad. I was there during the fury of floods. Whatever has been said by the Hon. member is correct. After coming from there National Relief Committee...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak. listen him first. Reply will be given first to the matters mentioned under Rule 377

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : He has raised the issue of Sitamarhi. I went there. The condition of other districts in Bihar is also bad. So, in the meeting of the National Relief Committee held, 21 crore rupees have been given for Bihar. Now, the floods have come in second round. We are awaiting a memorandum from the State Government. Thereafter, a meeting of the National Relief Committee will be convened...(*Interruptions*). You are Hon. member. If we say that you do not know how to read and write, will it be proper?...(*Interruptions*) You belong to Bihar.