

...(Interruptions) You please let us submit our point. We object to its being placed at item No. 20 ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not allow me to finish the other business?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us finish the earlier business and then see what can be done.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take Matters Under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only one day is left of this session. Our business is not likely to be completed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chitta Basu, there is no meaning of it. I have understood the sense of the House. Let us finish the other business quickly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be order in the House.

13.32 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to sanction adequate funds for protection and conservation of Archaeological sites at Ghatampur, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI (Ghatampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of cultural, archaeological and historical heritages in my Parliamentary Constituency Ghatampur, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.) But the Central Government has not made any arrangement for their maintenance due to which these cultural and historical heritages are lying neglected in my constituency. These archaeological and historical heritages fall under backward area. Therefore, the Government should allocate funds on priority basis for their maintenance so that this area may become a centre of tourists attraction.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government to conduct a detailed survey of the archaeological and historical heritages falling under my constituency Ghatampur and make sufficient allocation of funds for their maintenance.

(ii) **Need to handover Sambhar Salt Lake to State Government of Rajasthan**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, Sambhar, which is the largest brackish water lake in the country and which was joint property of the erstwhile Jaipur and Jodhpur princely States, has been the main source of salt production since long. It was given to British Government on lease on payment of rent and royalty. After the State of Rajasthan came into being in 1950, it was given to Central Government on lease for 10 years on the basis of an agreement. After the expiry of lease period, the Central Government and the State Government could not reach mutually acceptable agreement in respect of the terms and conditions of the new lease. The Central Government had set up a company, namely, M/s. Hindustan Salt Limited for production of salt from this lake. The performance of this company is not satisfactory. Every year production of salt is declining. It has resulted not only in loss of revenue to the State but has also deprived the people from developing salt-based industries and getting opportunities of employment. No effort was made to increase the production capacity of salt whereas salt industry like Deedwana and Pachpada are earning profit every year and both of these industries are providing employment to thousands of local people.

M/s. Sambhar Salt Ltd. is making efforts to enter the Joint venture with a private firm. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has also been requesting the Prime Minister to handover this Sambhar Salt area to his State Government. As such, I request the Central Government to handover Sambhar salt lake to the State Government without any delay so that more revenue could be realised.

(iii) **Need to clear proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government for providing drinking water in various parts of the State**

[English]

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : The State Government of Andhra Pradesh forwarded to the Union Government for taking up the Drinking Water projects covering the habitations having problems of brackish water in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government submitted 17 projects costing Rs. 599.79 crore. Out of them four projects are in Prakasham, two in Krishna and one each in Mehboobnagar and Cuddapah districts. Again, the State Government submitted proposals for approval of projects by the Government of India at a cost of Rs. 40.17 crore for providing drinking water to 342 rural habitations in Chittoor district. In addition, another project proposal at a cost of Rs. 22 crore was submitted for providing drinking water from Swarnamukhi and Kalinga rivers for 178 brackish water affected habitations in Sullurpet area of Nellore district.

[Smt. Lakshmi Panabaka]

The State Government had to share 25 per cent of the project cost as per norms under submission projects. All these proposals are still pending with the Central Government. 2586 habitations in Cuddapah district, 342 rural habitations in Chittoor district and 178 brackish water affected habitations in Sullurpet area of Nellore district are deprived of the drinking water from a long period.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to clear the above proposals and provide funds for their implementation.

(iv) Need to take steps to protect Sankosh and Gangadhar river basins from going dry in Assam

SHR. BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : It is a matter of concern that the entire area of the Sankosh and the Gangadhar river basins in Assam is in danger of going dry due to proposed Sankosh River Multipurpose Project in Bhutan. And the situation is being further aggravated due to the proposed diversion of 13,000 cusecs of water from the Sankosh to Farakka to augment the committed water supply to Bangladesh under the Indo-Bangla Treaty. Thus a 143 km. canal will be dug from the Bhutan point of the river to the Teesta barrage. The treaty with Bangladesh and agreement with Bhutan, no doubt, deserves the nation's support. But while working it out, planning has been done in a haphazard and irrational way. The proposal to supply Sankosh water to Farakka, an old proposal, has been protested by experts during the last fifteen years. And even the agreement on Sankosh Hydro-Electrical Project signed between India and Bhutan in March 1996 was under consideration since early 80s. An assurance given by the Government on 25th August, 1983 that the threat to the Manas ecosystem and particularly to the flora and fauna of the entire area by the proposed dams on Sankosh and Manas rivers which were then only in the investigation stage would be examined, was not honoured.

And now the proposed Sankosh River Multipurpose Project will not only be an ecological disaster to Manas National Park in Assam but also to Buxa tiger reserves, Jaidapara Sanctuary, Gafumara national park and several forest areas in the district of Jalpaiguri in West Bengal but also will cause an agricultural havoc by turning several areas in Dhubri and Kokrazhar districts of Assam and eastern Coochbehar and other adjacent areas of West Bengal into a stretch of more barren land.

I request the Union Government to rethink on both these proposals.

13.40 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(v) Need to provide funds to the State Government of Bihar for Industrial development of Aurangabad district

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Aurangabad district of Bihar State is the most backward district of a backward State. The people of this district are migrating to other places due to prevailing unemployment and starvation.

No industry has been set up in Aurangabad. There is no other source of employment and pace of development is slowing down, instead of picking up. The per capita income of the people is decreasing. After acquiring the land under Industrial Growth Centre Scheme in Aurangabad, though fencing has been done but no effort is being made to set up any industry there till date.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to allocate requisite funds to the State Government for providing financial assistance to Aurangabad Growth Centre so that more and more industries may be established in this area as soon as possible.

(vi) Need to provide more facilities to Khadi and Village Industries

[*English*]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargoda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government, especially the Minister of Industry towards the pathetic condition of the village industry of Khadi. Last year, the Government reduced the rebate from 15 per cent to ten per cent and had completely withdrawn Government purchase and the rebate on poly-vastra was totally abolished. This had a disastrous effect on Khadi sale which decreased by more than Rs. 50 crore, resulting in a loss of employment to 80,000 artisans. Khadi institutions work on a 'no loss, no profit' basis. As they follow Gandhian philosophy, they are not allowed to create capital. The production and sale of Khadi is essential.

In this golden jubilee year of our Independence, Khadi industry and millions of poor Khadi workers, mainly women are suffering from unemployment and lower wages. Only Government assistance can save this village industry from ruin. The Government should see the potential of these village industries to provide employment to lakhs of village people, mainly women.

I request the Union Government to look into the following demands of this village industry.

- (1) Restoration of rebate at the level before 1995.
- (2) The special rebate of 15 per cent should be in addition to the normal rebate of ten per cent.