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14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

Title: Need to ensure early clearance for the Government of Karnataka's project proposal on 'Sustainable Management of Environment and Forests'.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): Sir, a proposal titled Sustainable Management of Environment and Forests for Karnataka II Phase of JBIC project was forwarded by the State Government to the Government of India on 15th May, 2002. The total cost of the project is Rs. 780 crore spread over a period of five years.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has approved the proposal and after obtaining necessary clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission it has been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for seeking external assistance. A three-way meeting between the State Government representatives, Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation was held to discuss about external funding and loan package. Considering the number of suggestions made during the fact-finding mission of the JBIC on 28th and 29th May, 2003, a revised proposal for Rs.997.21 crore has been sent to Government of India on 5.8.2003. The proposal was further revised to Rs. 946.37 crore and re-submitted to Government of India.

As this proposal is still pending with the Government of India, I urge upon the Government to kindly take early action for approval of the proposal. Thank you.