

have invested their life's savings into this activity. Recently, the hon. Supreme Court had directed the respective coastal Districts' Collectors to close or demolish all the farms situated on the sides of the rivers creeks and seashore by 31st March, 1997 ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Budget is to be passed, otherwise you will not get your salary.

[English]

SHRIMATI M. PARVATI : I would like to know from the Government what measures do the Government intend to take to protect the interests of the farmers who are to be affected by this order of the hon. Supreme Court since the deadline for implementing the order of the hon. Supreme Court is fast approaching. These farms, it seems, contribute around Rs. 3000 crore of foreign exchange to our national exchequer. The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur has given a contradictory report about the aquaculture to the Government of India and the hon. Supreme Court. I wish that the Government probe and examine this report thoroughly...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Small issues are not taken up in Zero Hour. Big issues should be raised in this Hour.

[English]

SHRIMATI M. PARVATI : Moreover, most of the investment by aquaculturists is done by way of loans. NABARD and other commercial banks have advanced crores of rupees and the repayment normally will become a question, placing the banks and others which have lent the loans, in an awkward position.

The future life of around 50 lakhs of people who are directly or indirectly employed in this sector is at stake and the view of the Government regarding this issue is sought with concern by the Members of this House.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have discussed the issue of providing political protection to criminals particularly about some Members of Parliament. Since it has created a disastrous situation in the country. I wish to invite your attention in the matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, I have said that I have received your notice and also the notice of Prof. Rita Verma and I am looking into it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is a document ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I know that. Okay.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, it is a matter of great concern because the country is facing a lot of problems today because of the political protection which is given to such criminal elements...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please sit down. You cannot raise it now. I did not read your original note in Hindi. I had to read the English translation. Maybe, you are more informed. But what I understand is that the two names that were taken did not mention that they are Members of Parliament. One person is referred to as an MLA and the other person is referred to without any designation. It is not allowed to be raised now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am verifying it. It is under my consideration. The fact that I have referred to it, should convey that I have also taken note of that. What else do you want? Please do not ask me to take a final decision now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow any more. We have to pass the Budget also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Namgyal, please come to my chamber. I will discuss it with you. Let me understand it and then I will allow you later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we may take up Matters Under Rule 377.

12.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to start work on Mohane Reservoir Project in Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chattra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Gaya District of Central Bihar is a very backward district. This region has come in the grip of terrorism due to poverty, unemployment and very slow development. Mohane Reservoir Project in Mohanpur, Barachatti Block was sanctioned in the Eighth Five Year Plan for developing this region. At that time the estimated cost of this project was one hundred and thirty crores of rupees. This project was to be completed during the Eight Five Year Plan. Completion of this project will irrigate 85,000 Hectare of land of Gaya and border districts of Barachatti, Mohanpur, Sherghati, Bodhgaya,

Chandausi, Manpur, Bela, Tekari, Fatehpur, Wazirganj, Atri and Khijra Sarai etc. Blocks and will generate 30 MW of electricity, completion of this project will benefit more than fifty lakh farmers of Gaya and its twelve border districts.

12.41 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

Construction of Mohane Reservoir Project could not be started till now. I, in the public interest, request the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources through this House that the construction of this project should be started immediately so that farmers of this region could be benefitted and presently the industries which are unable to prosper because of power shortage prosper with the availability of power and the local people are provided with jobs.

(ii) **Need to allocate adequate LPG to Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu to clear the Backlog**

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Sir, the common people of Kanyakumari District of Tamil Nadu are facing a lot of difficulties and inconvenience for a long time due to acute shortage of LPG connections. The waiting list is very long almost in all the gas agencies there. In some agencies, consumers are not getting opportunities to get gas connections even seven years after registration. This District is declared as cent per cent literacy district. In most of the families there, both males and females are employed. They are the worst affected people due to the long waiting list. Moreover, Kanyakumari District is located in between Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats. The coastal, tribal and other people of mountainous areas need to be protected giving special attention in the allotment of gas connections.

I urge upon the Government to allot adequate number of LPG connections to the gas agencies of Kanyakumari District so as to enable them to clear the prevailing long waiting list.

(iii) **Need to increase the number of Flights from Calcutta to Tezpur**

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Sir, the Headquarters of Sonitpur district in Assam, Tezpur occupies an important place in Indian mythology. Agnigarh hill in the heart of Tezpur was the fortified abode of Usha, the bewitching maiden of King Banasura. Legend has it that Usha fell in love with the picture of debonair Aniruddha of Dwaraka, son of Krishna, painted by Chitrlekha. Usha's bosom companion, Chitrlekha managed to get Aniruddha flown over from Dwaraka to Tezpur in Krishna's Pushpak Rath. Aniruddha was instantly smitten by passionate love for

Usha and having tied the proverbial nuptial knot, both had flown back by the same Pushpak aircraft from Tezpur to Dwaraka and lived happily ever after.

Against this glorious aviation mythological background, it is highly lamentable that Tezpur does not have regular air services even on the verge of 21st century.

Presently, there are only two flights a week by Indian Airlines from Calcutta to Tezpur and Imphal to Calcutta after the NEPC flights from Calcutta to Guwahati and Tezpur were discontinued. There is an imperative need to increase the number of flights to at least five per week from Calcutta to Tezpur by Indian Airlines alone or by IAC and another private airlines together.

Apart from nearly 100 tea gardens in Sonitpur district and vicinity of Arunachal Pradesh, the Headquarters and Cantonments of 4 Corps of the Army, Indian Air Force bases for fighter and transport squadrons, Zonal Head Offices of Border Roads, MES and Assam Rifles and the Central University were located in or near Tezpur. The stimulus provided by greater frequency of flights will generate more than adequate passenger traffic, a part of which is now getting diverted to Guwahati.

I would, therefore, fervently urge the Civil Aviation Ministry to take necessary effective measures to increase the number of flights to Tezpur from Calcutta at least to five per week, if not daily and to construct a separate civil enclave within IAF's present airport complex for smooth management of passenger traffic.

(iv) **Need to shift LPT installed in Shekhpura, Bihar to a Government building.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman Sir, an L.P.T. has been installed in Shekhpura, Bihar. The building in which this L.P.T. has been installed is a private one and is insecure. Keeping in view its safety, District Officer of Shekhpura has written to Director, Doordarshan, Patna for installing it in a Government building. I have also written several letters for shifting it to a Government building from the private building but no action has since been taken in this regard.

Central Government is, therefore, requested that L.P.T. may be installed in a Government building by shifting it from the private building.

(v) **Need to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Indore, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indore of Madhya Pradesh is a down of art and industries. Indore and its nearby areas has given us several artists of world fame. Several cultural organisations are cooperating in promoting Indian arts. The culture of Malwa is known since old ages for its own specialities. From political angle too Indore has got