

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at fifteen minutes past fourteen of the clock

[RAO RAM SINGH—in the chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULES 377

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up matter under Rule 377. Shri M. Baga Reddy.

- (i) **Need for effective utilisation of Sugar Development Fund for Modernisation, expansion and rehabilitation Schemes in the Sugar Industry.**

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY (Medak): The Government of India, consequent on enactment of Sugar Development Fund Act 1982, set up Sugar Development Fund by levy of a cess of Rs. 14 per quintal of sugar produced by the sugar factories.

The Sugar Development Fund is created out of the cess collected from the industry which has increased the cost of sugar thereby effecting the free sale realisation to sugar mills. Hitherto, the Government of India was charging a concessional rate of interest of 6 per cent on the loans sanctioned to the sugar factories. However, the rate of interest has been increased by Government to 9 per cent with effect from 24-4-1991.

Since the Sugar Development Fund is created out of the cess collected

from the industry, there is no justification for imposing terms and conditions not favourable to the industry at this juncture which are coming in the way for the implementation of the schemes on hand. With the huge accumulation of about Rs. 600 crores with substantial accretion of about Rs. 150 crores per annum, the Government of India should help the industry in a big way for affective utilisation of the fund in implementing the modernisation, expansion and rehabilitation schemes in the sugar which is at low key with disbursement of about Rs. 100 crores per annum at present.

- (ii) **Need for early clearance of down Stream Projects for Naptha Cracker Unit at Vishakapatnam.**

SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA (Anakapalli): I would like to draw the attention of the Government for early clearance of downstream projects for the Naptha Cracker Unit which is coming up at Visakhapatnam. It is learnt that without sanction of downstream projects, Naptha Cracker alone is not financially viable because Naptha Cracker produces raw material for down-stream products. In all other cases, i.e., Reliance Petro-Chemical, NOCIL, Indian Petro, the Government of India sanctioned the Naptha Cracker as well as downstream projects together. Secondly, in other cases Naptha is to be imported whereas in the case Naptha is available in Visakhapatnam refinery which results in saving of foreign exchange. This will be the single largest investment in the State of Andhra Pradesh

other than steel sector and expected to give a significant boost to the economy of the State as well as to employment.

I therefore, request the Government to clear the down-stream project for Naptha Cracker at the earliest.

(iii) Need to appoint a high power committee for suggesting special provisions to ensure all-round development of Vidarbha region.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : The people of Vidarbha have even sacrificed their own material political stability in the country and have even sacrificed their own material interests for that even after the Fazal ali Commission recommended a full fledged Statehood for Vidarbha.

The assurances repeatedly given to us by the central leadership have however been forgotten. The region continues to be neglected in every sphere of economic development including agriculture, industry, communication and the rest.

Severe droughts affect our region every alternate year while our rivers remain virgin and untapped. No allocation of funds has been made to implement prominent Indira Sagar Project on Wainganga River which will pave the new ways of prosperity.

We must the Integral Coach Factory

to be located at Wardha. The gas pipe line from Bombay High up north detours Vidarbha. No additional trains to New Delhi and Bombay from Nagpur directly are in sight in spite of a three-year old commitment from the Railway Ministry. Nor is Chandrapur Gondia-Jabalpur narrow-gauge converted into a broad-gauge one.

Nagpur city is waiting for its Sonegaon Airport to be converted into an international one. Gadchiroli, one of the most backward of all districts in the country and the only no-industry district in Maharashtra remains without any industry.

The Manas Gowaries and Halbas among the tribals are deprived of their tribal status and of all facilities that they enjoyed earlier.

I, therefore, appeal to the Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Vidarbha to appoint a high-power committee for formulating special provisions to ensure an all round development of Vidarbha without delay.

(iv) Need to install electronic telephone exchange at Bareilly during the current year.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Sir, Bareilly is an important city of Uttar Pradesh. The Central