

14.40 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to take immediate steps to cope with the situation arising out of drought at Idukki, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir the District of Idukki in Kerala is under threat of total ruin and we have been requesting for necessary action and steps for the last three years to improve the situation. The severe drought has completely ruined pepperwines, tea, coffee, cocoa, cardamom, coconut, rubber etc. have dried up and have been destroyed. All cultivations and greeneries are facing devastation. The poor peasants are panic-stricken, absolutely non-plussed. This situation, if allowed to continue, will lead to an economic havoc not only in Idukki but also in the entire State of Kerala. I therefore request the Central Government to take steps on a war-footing to meet the situation.

- (II) **Need for early completion of Jagdalpur-Nizamabad National Highway No 16**

[Translation]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jagdalpur Nizamabad National Highway No: 16 was approved four years ago, but the working staff to the full strength has not been posted there so far. Due to non-filling of the vacant posts the progress of the work on that project is very slow. As far as my information is concerned even the regular workers as gangment have not been recruited. The distance between Jagdalpur which is on the border of Baastar to Bhopalpatham is about 220km. A sub-division in Bijapur should be opened in order to accelerate the work. Recently a subdivi-

sion has been opened in Godam which at a distance of about 61 km from Jagdalpur, whereas the length of road towards Bhopalpathisnam from Godam is much more and the work could not be expedited due to the lack of control. A bridge is proposed to be constructed on the river Indrawati near Bhopalpathisnam. Therefore it is necessary to open a sub-division at Bijapur.

Hence, the Central Government is requested to direct the State Government to expedite the work for the early completion of this National Highway.

- (iii) **Need to provide funds for the construction of flats for families affected by the communal in Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the miserable conditions of over fifty thousand Muslims residing at Nala Road in Rourkela. During the communal riots which rocked many parts of my Parliamentary constituency in 1964, thousands of Muslim families took shelter at Rourkela. Even after the riot, nay families stayed back and are now residing at Nala Road. Most of these families have hardly a room to accommodate their family members. The entire Nala Road areas have not been provided with bare necessities of life like drinking-water, light, and sanitation. There was a proposal by the Government of Orissa to construct flats to accommodate them but this could not be materialised as most of these families live from hand to mouth and are unable to pay the housing instalments. Sir, during the rainy seasons as the entire Nala Road area is low-land area of Rourkela township and there is no drainage system, the areas are affected by flood water. Many of them suffer from cholera. During the summer they do

not get water to drink as the area has of water supply facilities.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to sanction a substantial amount for construction of flats for these people on humanitarian grounds in order to resettle these families affected by communal riots.

(iv) Need to develop inland waterway from Kovalam to Kochuvell, Kerala

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): It is reliably learnt that the Government of India has selected a few projects for development of Tourism under the Central Sector. Kovalam is one such project in Kerala. The Kerala Government has submitted a proposal for the development of inland waterway from Kovalam to Kochuvelli where facilities are already available for water sports. If the Kovalam- Kochuvelli inland water way is developed it can attract tourist from all over the world. If this waterway is developed the tourists who land at the Airport can easily reach Kovalam through the waterway in less than half-an-hour. I, therefore, request the Central Government to implement the project within a time frame.

(v) Need to take steps for early completion of Daryaghat' railway line through Murdbad Tehsil of Thane district, Maharashtra.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): The survey for new railway line through Murdbad Tehsil of Than District, Maharashtra was made long back.

This railway line is not only the lifeline of this Tehsil but will be also a boon to southern India. It is reported that with the laying of this line the distance between Bombay to Vishakhapatnam will be reduced by 250 Kms., and that between Bombay and Ahmednagar will be 100 Kms.,

less than the existing railway route. The passengers travelling by the proposed route will not have to travel via Pune but can go directly from Bombay to Ahmednagar through Daryaghat. The poor villagers from Murdbad Tehsil are anxiously waiting for completion of this railway line called "Daryaghat Railway."

I urge upon the Central Government to take up the matter as it will be the shortest link between Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

(vi) Need for setting up an electronic telephone exchange at Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, my whole constituency comes under Ter-rain region, on the Borders of Nepal. This is a terrorist affected area. Many years ago, an electronic telephone exchange was approved for this area, but it has not been set up so far; due to which people have to face a lot of inconvenience. Besides, police force also it difficult to fight against terrorism due to the lack of communication facilities.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to open the aforesaid exchange in Pilibhit at the earliest.

(vii) Need to introduce direct trains between North Bihar and South India

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Si-tamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the coaches of almost all the trains coming to Bihar, particularly to North Bihar are in worn out condition. So much so that even the doors and windows of the toilets in these trains are without bolts, and the taps broken. It is difficult to assess how much inconvenience