

They did speak. Please do not repeat it. Help us.

The house stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 PM.

13.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till thirty minutes past fourteen of the clock.

14.35 hrs.

THE LOK SABHA RE-ASSEMBLED AFTER LUNCH AT THIRTY-FIVE MINUTES PAST FOURTEEN OF THE CLOCK (MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Sultanpuri to speak.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) *Need to provide compensation to the farmers of Himachal Pradesh whose fruit products have been destroyed due to strike by transport operators.*

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the roads in Himachal Pradesh have got blocked due to heavy rains. Transportation to farflung areas has stopped and the farmers are unable to bring their cashcrops to the market. They have improved their economic condition by planting fruit trees such as apple, pear, peach; plum; 'Galgal', lemon etc. and checked the erosion of soil. They cultivate different vegetables as tomatoes, french beans etc. on the land lying vacant. But the farmers had to face a lot of difficulties this time, due to the strike by transport operators as they had no other means to carry these vegetable crops to the market etc. as the roads were blocked due to heavy rains. In this way, crops worth crores of rupees had destroyed.

So, I would request the Central Government that adequate compensation should be immediately provided to the farmers who had incurred loss of near about Rs. 475 crores.

The Government has already been informed about this issue through a letter.

(ii) *Need to issue letter of Intent for setting up of a cooperative Sugar factory at Polur in Tamilnadu*

[English]

SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY (VAN-DAUASI): A proposal for setting up of a cooperative sugar factory at Polur in Tamil Nadu is pending for Letter of Intent from the Government of India. The sugarcane growers in and around Polur, Thiruvannamalai and Arani are finding it difficult to send their sugarcane for crushing to other far off places. The sugar mills will be economically viable and will help thousands of farmers to crush additional sugarcane.

Hence, I request the Central Government to accord approval for establishing a cooperative sugar factory at Polur, Tamil Nadu early.

(iii) *Need to provide more facilities at Chirai railway station of Western Railway.*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHILIA (Junagarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chirai railway station of Gandhidham under Ajuer division on Western Railway is an important station for the supply of salt. Everyday 2000 tonnes of salt is loaded in the trains from this railway station, where 300 workers do this work and nearabout 50 trucks are used in this work. For a long time, salt is being loaded from here, but there are no adequate facilities of drinking water, rest houses and telephones for the workers, traders and truck drivers. Due to this reason, these people have to face a lot of difficulties and this hampers the work also. If the traders have to make telephone calls, they have to cover a long distance for this, as the telephones at the railway station always remain dead. The Railway earns Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 25 crores annually from the loading of salt from this railway station.

So, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to provide adequate facilities of drinking water, rest houses and telephones for the workers, traders and truck operators at the Chirai railway station.