

(x) Need to provide adequate facilities to weekly and fortnightly local newspapers

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I sit on 'dharana' in front of the Chamber of Shri Kamal Morarka, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377 with your permission:

Weekly and fortnightly newspapers play an important role in highlighting people's problems and bringing them into the national main stream in rural areas and small towns of the country. During the last one decade the big dailies released very few advertisements to small newspapers being published from various cities even at nominal rates. Even their quota of newsprint is not supplied to them in time. The result is that these important media which create public opinion in rural areas are gradually closing down their publication. The Government should constitute high level Committee immediately to study the problems being faced by these newspapers and take comprehensive measures to make them economically viable. To give them immediate relief, the Government should take steps in the direction of simplifying the procedure of giving recognition to these newspapers raising advertisement tariff and quota of newsprint and compulsory release of employment news besides making provision for giving at least one fourth representation to these newspapers in various Committees of Journalists.

(xi) Need to construct a By-Pass near Udaipur in Rajasthan on National Highway No. 8

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Udaipur is situated on the National Highway No. 8. The proposal regarding construction of by-pass is pending for years. In the absence of a by-pass, at least 60-70 accidents take

place every year resulting in more than 100 deaths. The Central Government had allocated funds for acquiring land for the construction of by-pass and this work had been completed a year ago. State Government of Rajasthan had sanctioned Rs. 95 lakhs for the construction of service line and started work on it. The Central Government was to accord financial sanction for the construction but the same has not been done so far with the result that construction work has not started so far. The result is that inconvenience being caused to the people of Udaipur city has increased all the more because the National Highway No. 8 passes through the heart of the city. By-pass in all the big and small cities falling on this National Highway have been constructed. Udaipur—a tourist spot and a historical place is the only city which is devoid of this facility.

Therefore, the Ministry of Surface Transport should take immediate steps to start construction of this by-pass.

(vii) Need to take steps to provide drinking water in various regions of Jahanabad, Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a big country, but it is still facing severe problem of drinking water. This is a very serious matter which causes concern. Even after 42 years of independence, we have not been able to provide potable drinking water to the people. In Jahanabad district, hand-pumps cannot be installed in Daulatpur, Akbarpur and Makhpa villages of Makhdumpur block. Thikraur village of Ghoshi block. Nonahi village of Parko block. Baisna, Khagripur, Nagra and Jagdoha villages of Khijar Sarai block because the land in these villages is rocky and, as such, water is brought from outside.

Therefore, the Government should provide drinking water in these villages.