

to be fruitful. Just starting it and talking something and going back is not the way how the debate is to be conducted. We take strong objection to this change.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's point of view. But I think he is aware—and I think he was present in the House—when I placed the next week's Government business. I read it out and submissions were made on the statement made for the next week's business.

SHRI RAM NAIK: But the order is not to be changed.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: The order is made for every day. We have a situation where the Demands for Grants have to be cleared in this session. I do not say that that Bill is not important. I do agree with the important point mentioned by the hon. Member.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): The Session is not ending today that you are so curious about it.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Are we going to have a cross-examination? Then, I will bring my files and give you a cross-examination.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is a Professor and you are an Advocate.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am willing to be cross-examined if the hon. Member wants that. So far as the point of order is concerned, I would like to mention it is not a point of order, because there is no rule which says that what is listed on the previous day has to be carried over to the next day. But there is, as rightly pointed out by the hon. Member, a method of etiquette where the hon. members are informed in advance. But, this being a very important item, we brought it up. Definitely we will keep in mind what the hon. Member has said.

In future, whenever we bring up I will try and mention it to the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright: this is noted for future guidance. Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

13.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to increase contingency funds for natural calamities for Orissa State.

[English]

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Orissa State situated on the eastern coast line of India, is hit by cyclones and severe floods every year owing to its geographical location. The permanent scars of damage caused to the coastal districts during the unprecedented cyclones and floods in the year 1990 are still prominently visible. Extensive damage has been caused to roads, bridges, dwelling units and cattle belonging to the coastal inhabitants of the State.

There is a standing provision of Rs. 47 crores per annum for natural calamities, from the Central Government for Orissa State. This amount is inadequate, owing to the above-mentioned reasons. Further, even the interior districts of Koraput, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Bolangir, etc. get affected badly, due to the high intensity of the cyclone and floods.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government that the contingency funds for natural calamities be increased from the existing Rs. 47 crores to Rs. 100 crores per annum for Orissa State forthwith.

(ii) Need to formulate new hydro project for production of more electricity in Himachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh has the capacity to produce 20 thousand megawatt hydro electricity. After conducting survey the State Government has informed the Central Government about it and the representatives have also told about the

electricity capacity of Himachal in the Seminars organised by the State Electricity Boards in different parts of the country. The loan being given by the World Bank can be helpful for these works which is being allocated for such schemes at present. The fact is, hydro electric projects are cheaper than thermal power projects and the coal stock of our country can be used for other purposes. In my opinion, the coal stock should be reserved so that the coming generations may take full advantage of this stock. The Central Government should implement more and more hydro electric schemes. It will be helpful for nation's development, and unemployed engineers and other educated men and women will get employment in these schemes.

I demand from the Central Government that among hilly areas, more schemes for electricity generation be prepared for Himachal Pradesh and 20 thousand megawatt electricity be generated after utilising total present resources. I have also to state that a large portion of Punjab was included in Himachal Pradesh but only 2.19 percent electricity was provided to Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, crores of rupees of State Government are due. I have also to state here that all those states which owe payment to Himachal Pradesh must pay it to the state so that the same may be utilized for electricity programmes.

(iii) Need to halt mail trains at Naupada railway station, Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

DR. VISWANATHAM K. NITHI (Srikulam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Naupada lies on broad gauge railway line between Madras and Calcutta. The travelling public of Naupada and its surrounding areas in Waltair division of South Eastern railways face a lot of problems. The only two fast mail trains used to stop at Naupada till 1976.

In the year 1976, the Railways introduced a system that tickets to the passengers travelling below 200 kms. would not be issued for the convenience of long distance passengers. This has resulted in the fall in revenue at Naupada station which is on the broad gauge double railway line between Madras and Calcutta. On this ground, the mail trains ceased to stop at Naupada causing a lot of hardship to the travelling public of this area. This being the station for the revenue Divisional headquarters,

a railway junction and an importance centre, it deserves due recognition. The Express trains halt at many other places of less importance. This action on the part of the Railways had resulted in a number of agitations like rail roko, hunger strikes etc.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to ensure that all the Mail trains halt at Naupada, immediately.

(iv) Need to review the decision to supply inland letters with reduced size.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : The inland letters and postcards issued by the Postal Department are largely used for communication by the common man from the rural as well as urban parts of the country. The inland letter is preferred over post-card because it gives more writing space and also keeps the contents more confidential than the open post-card. The Ministry of Telecommunications have suddenly reduced the size of the inland letter and the quality of paper is also inferior as compared to the earlier inland letter. The writing space has been reduced from 24.5×18 cm. of the front page of old inland letter to 26.5×15 cms. of the new letter, and the back page writing space has been reduced from 11.6×18 cms. to 8.7×15 cms. The net effect is reduction of writing space from 660.60 sq. cms. to 528 sq. cms., i.e. 132.60 cms. which works out to 20%. This reduction of size is causing considerable inconvenience to the people and is also a back-door method of earning revenue without the approval of Parliament.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister for Communications to withdraw the new inland letters and supply them as per old size. For the people who have already purchased the new inland letters, the Government should refund the money at the rate of 15 paise per piece.

(v) Need for construction of a overbridge at Damoh in Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to this very important issue under Rule 377.

An overbridge on railway line at Damoh Headquarters of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh was sanctioned two years ago. In spite of this the construction of this overbridge is