

19.04 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 4th October, 1990, passed, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (Seventy-sixth Amendment) Bill, 1990, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th October, 1990.”

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377
19.05 hrs. [MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the Chair]

(i) **Need to instruct State Governments to ensure minimum civic amenities in villages**

[*English*]

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow): Sir, the proposed sanction of more than 200 crores of rupees as loan granted by the World Bank for improving the civic facilities in big cities in the country makes it necessary to draw the attention of the Government towards the pitiable plight of a large number of villages. Such villages were included in the extended areas of the Municipal Cor-

poration of all cities almost two decades ago which have been denied even the minimum facilities both by the urban and rural development agencies. In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, alone more than one hundred villages were included in the Municipal Corporation area in 1967 and since then even the minimum civic amenities like drinking water, primary schools, hospitals and repair of roads has not been taken up because of lack of resources of the rural development agencies. Hence the burden on the urban agencies. This is a piquant situation and lakhs of people are suffering because of lack of any clear-cut guidelines. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to issue immediate instructions to the concerned authorities in the various States to undo the wrong being perpetuated on the innocent citizens.

(ii) **Need to supply more raw material to small scale units like Zenith Carbon, Maniyer Metals, etc.**

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that some Calcined Petroleum Coke (CPC) Units set up in the small scale sector in Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are facing serious crisis. In the public sector there are large scale units at Bongaigaon and Barauni owned by Indian Oil Corporation and in the private sector there is only one such unit which is called Petroleum and Chemicals Ltd. These large scale units do not have any problem since they are getting adequate quantum of raw materials. Haldia has got enhanced allocation from 50,000 to 75,000 tonnes of raw material per month. But it is regrettable that equal attention is not being paid by Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to promote small scale units though the Central Government has announced that priority would be given to boost to small scale units. Prominent among the affected small scale units are Zenith Carbon, Maniyer Metals, New Carbon, Bihar Carbons and Petri-carbon

(Varanasi). These small scale units need 2000-2500 tonnes of raw material per month, whereas they are hardly given 40 to 45 tonnes of their allocated quota. As such, these units are facing serious crisis and most of them are on the verge of closure. In that event, a large number of people could be rendered unemployed.

In view of this, I demand that the small scale units mentioned above be suitably considered for higher allocation of raw material so that they may function smoothly and save large number of employees as well as the workers, most of whom are SC & ST, from retrenchment.

(iii) Need to take necessary steps for the overall development of Sunderbans area in West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while nature has been bountiful to Sunderbans in West Bengal for its rich flora and fauna, scenic beauty and ambience, the renowned 'Bengal Tigers', its people are deep rooted in poverty. They are not only ill-clad and ill-fed but a sizeable number of them do not even have two square meals a day. Their main avocation is wood-cutting and fish breeding. While going to the forest for wood cutting, a good number of them are mauled by the ferocious tigers and there is hardly any hamlet in the area where there is not a 'tiger widow'. I would urge the Government to put up infrastructure in cooperation with the State Government to start small scale village industries and ask the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to take a lead in this sphere. The Government should also ask the NABARD or some of the Regional Rural Banks to open one of its Branches in this area to give loans to the poor for starting some cottage industries.

Further there is great scope for increasing production of fisheries, which can play an important role in the

economy of the region. The Government of India should take urgent steps to extend the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) 'Small Scale Fisherfolk Communities in Bay of Bengal' to the Sunderbans Area also.

(iv) Need to remove discontent among the Sikhs in Punjab

[Translation]

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit the following matter under rule 377:—

The innumerable Sikh youth in Punjab are detained unconstitutionally for months without producing them before the Magistrates according to the constitutional provisions and they are inhumanly tortured by the Punjab Police and the Central Para-Military Forces. If these youth die in custody due to the torture, the police show them as killed in encounter. As a result, a feeling of discontent and secession is growing among the Sikh community there.

Therefore, I request the Government to take firm and practical steps and take action against the officers who are guilty of such cruel acts. Further, the Government should pay compensation to all affected youths and should release all those who are under unconstitutional detention of the Punjab Police.

(v) Need to provide more funds for SC/ST students living in hostels of educational institutions, particularly in Orissa

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Sir, there are a large number of hostels for the high schools for Scheduled Caste and Tribal boys in the country specially in Orissa where the stipend given to a student per month is Rs. 100/- for food,