

12.55 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to repeal or amend the obsolete provisions of Factories Act 1948, coming in the way of progress of women**

(MUR 377)  
SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU

(Visakhapatnam): Although the Government of India has promised reservation of jobs for women in public sector corporations this policy is not being followed by many of the Central Government undertakings. A case in point is the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant which has very few women employees on its roster. The main reason being cited for women not being employed is the Factories Act which prohibits factories and work shops from employing women between 7 P.M. and 5 A.M. This archaic provision is governed by the Central Government's Factories Act of 1948.

At a time when the focus is on uplifting the lot of the women and there is all round concern in giving equal opportunities and status to women, these obsolete and archaic laws, which come in the way of emancipation and progress of women, must be repealed or amended.

I request the Central Government to look into the matter and give it the urgency it deserves.

- (ii) **Need to take up road trim Andhra border in Nanded district to Laxitipet in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh as National Highway to facilitate the transport of coal and cement** (MUR 377)

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad): The National Highways in the State of Andhra Pradesh in general and my Parliamentary

constituency of Adilabad District in particular need attention. This district is a backward area but has rich raw materials for manufacture of cement. Coal is available from Singareni Collieries. There is a heavy traffic from the coal mines to Maharashtra and coastal Andhra. The Central Government has a plan to connect important industrial areas to major cities. There is also a need to take up a road as a National Highway from Andhra border in Nanded district to Laxitipet in Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh. This is an important road which facilitates the transport of coal and cement. This is only 128 km in length. The State Government has recommended for taking up the road as it is already a State highway. I request the Government to take up this as a National Highway at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to develop Water logged land in Gopalpur regions of Bihar for Agriculture**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV (Khagaria): In Gopalpur assembly segment of Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar, more than one thousand acres of land has been rendered unusable due to water logging. I demand that the Government should take steps to develop this water-logged land for agriculture so that farmers could use this land which has been lying unutilized. The local farmers will be very much benefited. Therefore, I request the Government to do something to make this water logged land arable.

- (iv) **Need to give recognition to duly elected representative body of Trade union in Heavy Water plant, Talcher, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI RAVI NARAYAN PANI (Deogarh): I want to draw the attention of the