

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to both the hon. Members of the House for letting me benefit from the vast fund of knowledge that they have on this subject. I must admit right in the beginning that I do not have any such claims. As far as the other thing is concerned, I suppose every Member of this House is an 'hon. Member' as in the other House and only 'hon. Members' of the two Houses of Parliament become Ministers. I do not think after becoming Ministers they lose the 'honourable' part of it. After having said that, I would not have referred to our personal discussions which Mr. Kumaramangalam did refer. I would like to say that Mr. Kumaramangalam and Mr. Rawat were in touch with me on this issue and the main issue was one of the suspension of 16 employees of NABARD which was brought to my notice. The main request was that I should do something about revoking the suspension orders and the charge-sheets. I went into that question. I have said, in my statement, that NABARD is an autonomous body and it carries on its negotiations independently. Normally, the Government, in the Finance Ministry, will not intervene. Now, the matter has been raised in Parliament. So, such intervention or interest is unavoidable. When I went into this question, my mind was very clear and I am grateful to Mr. Rawat for the background of certain trade union activities on my part to which he has referred. As a trade unionist myself, I was very clear in my mind that no action of suspension should be taken against those employees against whom there were no criminal charges of violence and one of the first things which I said was that we should immediately recall the suspension order against all those employees who might have taken part in some agitation, but against whom no criminal charges of violence were pending. It was reported to me that out of 16 employees, against 14 employees there were no criminal charges. Against the other two employees, to which Mr. Kumaramangalam has also referred to, there were criminal complaints lodged. I have the gist here. The complaints

have been lodged by the affected people against these two employees.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The lady has withdrawn that complaint.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I do not have that information. I checked up that. This has not been substantiated. I am saying it with full sense of responsibility. That fact has not been corroborated.

When I went into some details, I find that in fact all this need not have taken place at all. What amazed me was that this kind of agitation rocked in NABARD throughout the country on an issue on which there should have been absolutely no difficulty in settling.

Therefore, in my statement, I have appealed to the employees to come back to the negotiating table. Again I am saying with a full sense of responsibility, if the employees come back to the negotiating table, then, I am quite confident that we will be able to find solutions to the issues which remain outstanding even till this date. If there is any contribution that I can make, that the Ministry can make, we will be too willing to make that contribution in seeing to it that these issues are settled promptly without delay and to the satisfaction of all.

15.17 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now matters under rule 377. Shri B. N. Reddy.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) **Need for a new National Housing Policy**

SHRI B. N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Chairman, the Government planned to build 27 million houses during the Seventh Plan but not even one million houses are being constructed resulting in huge backlog. In

[Sh. B.N. Reddy]

order to solve housing problems, the Government should set up a panel of experts in production, administration and management from talent available in India and abroad. Land should be made available at reasonable cost. Public sector should also be encouraged at par with the Government organisations. Housing projects should be entrusted to the private and public agencies on equal terms and the Government should make available many, materials, machinery and training to men. Industrialisation of housing will also help to achieve economy, quality and speed. The Government should consider all these factors and announce a new revised National Housing Policy soon.

(ii) Need to link railway line between Kadur-Chikmagalur-Belur-Saklespur

SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA (Chikmagalur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the need to linking railway line between Kandur-Chikmagalur-Belur-Saklespur.

This demand to link Chikmagalur railway line has been pending for the last 50 years. So far only surveys have been conducted without implementation. The above mentioned link railway line of 80 kms. will connect Chikmagalur district headquarters, Belur, the favour Tourist centre and Saklespur on Hassan-Mangalore railway line. Chikmagalur is the biggest coffee growing district of India. It also produces substantial quantity of spices which are also exported. But this district continues to be industrially backward due to lack of railway link.

I urge the Central Government to take immediate steps to sanction the above link line and include it in the 1991-92 Railway Budget.

(iii) Need to instal a high Power TV Transmitter at Annavaram in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Sir, East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh

is the largest district with an area of about 11,000 sq. km and an estimated population of about 80 lakhs. With an economy that is dependent primarily on agriculture, the population is mostly rural. Literacy level and the political awareness of people in the district is higher as compared to other districts and there is a desire by the rural masses to get educated more. In serving this objective and towards increasing literacy, television can play a very important role in the district.

Large areas of the district still remain uncovered by TV in spite of the three Low Power Transmitters of 1 KW each in operation in the district. Some prominent towns such as Tuni, Annavaram and Jaggampeta are also not covered by the existing Low Power Transmitters.

In order to facilitate the coverage of these areas, I would like to urge the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to instal a High Power Transmitter of 10 KW at Annavaram which is a suitable location because of its high altitude. This would definitely help cover most of the areas in the district and give a positive thrust to education among the rural masses.

(iv) Need to provide electricity and diesel in the country particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Bara Banki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the House to this important issue.

Most of the districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh are facing acute shortage of electricity and diesel. Farmers do not get power supply even for six hours a day and the diesel quota they get for one week suffices only for one day for irrigation and ploughing by tractor. This is affecting the agricultural operations and if the same situation continues, farmers will have to suffer a lot in future. There is great anxiety and resentment among farmers over the uncertain future.