

13.31 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up matters under rule 377. Shri Udaysingrao Gaikwad.

- (i) **Need to issue directions to apex cooperative Organisations of Maharashtra and other financial institutions to come to the aid of farmers of Western Maharashtra who produce jagree**

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD (Kolhapur): The western Maharashtra comprising Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara districts is famous for jagree production both in India and abroad. Jagree is exported to Gulf countries in abundance to fetch millions of dollars to ease foreign exchange crisis. With the Gulf war, importing countries are not lifting goods; whereas jagree season is in full swing since long.

The markets of Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli are overflooded with jagree. Resultantly, cultivators are unable to pay dues of cooperatives and other agencies. Meetings with marketing committees, federations and State Governments have taken place.

Though the Maharashtra Government is trying to solve crisis with limited financial resources, the problem remains unresolved, as marketing federations have not come out either to purchase jagree or advance loans to farmers. The Union Agriculture Ministry must issue directions to the apex Cooperative Organisations of Maharashtra and other Financial Institutions to finance farmers by granting loans upto 70 per cent of goods

through approved warehouses, to ease the situation.

I am afraid that if action is not taken forthwith, the farmers may start agitation, creating law and order problem in the State, thereby affecting future agricultural operations adversely.

- (ii) **Need to expand Kodungallur Telephone Exchange in Kerala**

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Kodungallur has a place of eminence in the history of Kerala. It is at Kodungallur that St. Thomas first landed in India. The first mosque in India was built by Cheraman Perumal at Kodungallur. Two of the famous Hindu temples of South India, 'Kurumba Bhagavathi' and 'Thiruvamehikkulam' are at Kodungallur. This place attracts thousands of tourists and pilgrims every year. Kodungallur has got a large number of non-resident Indians and hence the area is progressing. With the highest density of population, with high literacy Kodungallur has one of the largest commercial and trade centres in Kerala called 'Kottappuram'. But yet, Kodungallur Telephone Exchange is not expanded for the past several years. Even though some land was purchased by the department a few years back, there is no progress in constructing a building. So, I humbly request the hon. Minister for Telecommunications to issue necessary orders for the expansion of Kodungallur Telephone exchange.

- (iii) **Need to connect Kakinada by air**

SHRIM. M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): East Godavari district, the largest district in Andhra Pradesh with a population of nearly 50 lakhs is yet to find a prominent place in the civil aviation map of the country. A district that is predominantly agriculture based, industrialisation is taking off in the district in