

[*Translation*]

**(II) Need to provide necessary assistance to the farmers of Lakhimpur Kheri, whose crops had been damaged by recent rains and hailstorm**

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Kheri): Sir, the sudden rain, storm and severe hailstorm that lashed the Lakhimpur district on 22.3.90 have completely damaged the crops of all villages of Vijua, Bakejanj and Dhirara blacks in this district. The small farmers have suffered huge losses which cannot be compensated because the natural calamity has completely destroyed the crops of wheat, lahi, masoor and arhar. Now it seems well-nigh impossible for the villagers to feed even their children. They see darkness all around and are not finding any way to come out of this impasse. Therefore, I would request the Government to send a study team to assess the loss suffered by these villagers. In the meantime, the Government should provide immediate relief to the farmers in this area and orders should be issued immediately to stop the recovery of land revenue and advances in this area.

Thus the Government should immediately provide relief to these poor villagers.

[*English*]

**(iii) Need for an additional Periodical Overhauling and Traction shed unit at Bitragunta in Vijayawada division in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore): Bitragunta Loco-Shed which is in Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway, Andhra Pradesh, is the third largest in Asia, built nearly 105 years ago.

A circular type loco-shed and a shed consisting of powerful mechanised cranes, which cost around Rs. 50 crores, are the salient features of Bitragunta Loco-shed.

Nearly, 150 loco enginers used to be repaired in this loco-shed.

After the electrification of Madras-Vijayawada Section, this loco-shed had been shifted to some other area. As a result, there is no activity here and the Railway property worth crores of rupees is lying idle since then.

Since Railway Department has not recognised Bitragunta, no other unit has been set up there. There is a lot of Railway property including quarters, schools, land etc. at Bitragunta.

Hence, I appeal to the Government to set up an additional Electrical Periodical overhauling and Traction Shed Unit at Bitragunta and make best use of all the facilities and machinery which are already available here.

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THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): As the hon. Members are aware the Business Advisory Committee has allotted six hours for discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence.

Yesterday, we had consumed half an hour and five and a half hours are to be consumed today. Since we have decided to sit upto 7 O' clock, we will be able to devote five and a half hours. The Prime Minister will intervene at 5.30 P. M. Soon after that, the Minister will reply and we can take the vote around 7.00 P. M.

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MATTERS UNDER RULE 377- *Contd.*  
[*Translation*]

**(iv) Need to take up some railway projects for development of Madhepura District in Bihar**

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR RAVI YADAV (Madhepura): Sir, Madhepura dis-