

[*Translation*]

(ii) Need to set up an 'atomic energy centre' in Mandla district in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I raise the following matter under Rule 377.

A study and survey was conducted by the Central Study Team in Sheopuri and village Patha of district Mandla located on the Bargi dam for exploring the feasibility of setting up a national level atomic energy centre in Madhya Pradesh. The team found the Patha village suitable from all angles and rich in natural resources for setting up of an atomic energy centre. Even after that no concrete steps have so far been taken in this direction. This has pushed us 10 years back in the matter of development.

I would, therefore, like to request the Central Government that it should immediately start work by accordingly priority to the setting up of the atomic energy centre at Patha village under Mandla district in the national interest. Last year also I had made such a request, but no action has so far been taken on that. I would like to request the Government that immediate action may please be taken in this regard.

(iii) Need for steps to re-start the Fatwa-Islampur railway line and to convert narrow gauge into broad gauge line

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to submit the following under Rule 377:

The Fatwa-Islampur Light Railway of the Eastern Railway has been closed to traffic on account of damage caused to track by floods. The local people are agitating for restarting it. Due to its closure, a lot of difficulties are being faced in the movement of passenger and goods.

I would like to request the Government that in public interest the train services on Fatwa-Islampur railway line may be re-started and the narrow gauge line may be converted into broad gauge line.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh Government to meet the situation caused by rains and hailstorms in several parts of the State

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to read out the following statement under Rule 377:

"Unprecedented rains, snowfall and hailstorms hit Himachal Pradesh between 14th March and 27th March, especially the tribal areas of Lahaul-Spiti, Bharmaur, Kinnaur, Kulu, Mandi and some parts of district Shimla. Certain places experienced rain, snowfall and hailstorm even after 27th March, as a result of which hundreds of people were rendered homeless, thousands of bighas of land was flooded and the farmers particularly the fruit growers suffered 30 percent damage to their crops. So far as roads, bridges, drinking water schemes are concerned, large scale damage was caused. The seriousness of the situation can be judged by the fact that the State Government had to resort to airdropping of essential food items in the tribal belt of Kinnaur with due permission from the Centre. In order to deal with such a critical situation, the Central Government should extend financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 20 crores to the State Government without delay.

The Revenue Manual does not provide for any compensation to the farmers under such a situation. Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to extend maximum assistance to the State so that farmers could be helped.

I would also request the Central Government to immediately depute a Central Team to visit the affected areas of the State to assess the extent of damage.