

14.45 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to take up the question of Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees with Sri Lankan Government to check their influx into Malkangiri in Koraput District of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): As reported, the Sri Lankan Tamils who deserted Sri Lanka during the month of March, wanted to take shelter in Tamil Nadu but as the Tamil Nadu Government did not give them shelter they have been taken to Malkangiri in Koraput District of Orissa and kept in two places. It is further reported that they are in possession of dreadful arms and ammunition with them. This area of Malkangiri was previously inhabited by very simple backward Tribals and in 1962 onwards refugees of the then East Pakistan were brought in and settled there after clearing the dense jungles. The local tribals who are the poorest of the poor, are still living in that condition. There was rivalry among the Tribals and settlers for some time. The situation in Sri Lanka is such that many more Sri Lankan Tamils may reach here at any time. Malkangiri is a part of Scheduled Area of this country and was full of forest useful for the survival of the Tribals and that has been cleared almost fully adding to the ecological problems. If more and more refugees are settled there, it would create law and order problems in that peaceful area.

I draw the attention of the Minister of external Affairs to take up this matter with the Government of Sri Lanka to bring the situation to normal so that more refugees from there may not come to Malkangiri or any other place in India and those who have deserted Sri Lanka might return back to their homeland as early as possible.

- (ii) **Need to clear various Pending Projects for Promotion of Tourism in Gujarat State**

SHRIPRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT (Baroda): Gujarat has tremendous tourist potential both domestic as well as international. Gujarat has rich heritage in terms of archaeological monuments, handicrafts, arts, exquisite wildlife, undisturbed beaches, important places of pilgrimage, hills and colourful fairs and festivals. More than 40 lakh domestic tourists visit the State annually. More than 25,000 international tourists visit the State every year. Tourism has been recognised as a thrust area of development on account of its proved potential for generating income and employment in the country.

Government of Gujarat has identified various important places of tourist interest and submitted various proposals to Government of India. Proposals worth Rs. 516 lakhs for the year 1988-89, Rs. 697 lakh for the year 1989-90, and 606 lakhs for the year 1990-91, are pending for financial assistance from Government of India. These projects are classified into three categories viz. hotel and amusement parks, wayside amenities and Yatri Nivas.

In order to promote tourism effectively, I request the Government to approve the pending projects immediately.

- (iii) **Need to convert metre gauge railway line between Delhi and Ahmedabad into broad gauge**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Ajmer is a city of historical, religious and cultural importance having international fame. It is a confluence of all religions. The Dargah Sharif of Khwaja Mohiyuddin Chishti is situated there along with the famous pilgrim spot of Hindus-Pushkar. Every year lakhs of people enjoy the fruit of virtue by going there on pilgrimage. It is the place of salvation of the founder of Arya