

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

Samaj, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. The top leaders of the country offer their prayers and have blessings at Dargah Sharif and temple of Brahmaji. The famous Mayo college and other educational institutions are also situated there where people come for studies. There are many tourist spots like Akbar Fort, Magazine, Aana Sagar, Adhai Din Ka Jhompra, Nasian etc. But it is very unfortunate that although it is a central place of Rajasthan, it is not connected with broad gauge railway line. As a result thereof lakhs of passengers have to face inconvenience in travelling. The city is lagging behind in the economic and industrial field as it is not linked with broad gauge line. Big industries are not being established there. Therefore, Ajmer should be linked with broad gauge line immediately for its all round development. The long awaited and pending Delhi-Ahmedabad meter gauge line (*via* Rewari-Alwar-Jaipur-Phulera-Ajmer-Beawar-Marwar Junction-Abu Road-Mehsana) immediately so that long awaited aspirations of the people could be fulfilled and Rajasthan may also get rid of its backwardness.

- (iv) **Need for reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all fields of activities**

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people have reservations in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and Government services, but basic changes in the social and academic life of the Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes people cannot be brought about with mere reservations. The local bodies are the base of democracy. They do not have any representation on the posts of Chairman, Zila Parishad, Municipal Committee, Town Area Committee and Block Pramukh. In order to get representation in Legislative Councils and Rajya Sabha, they have to depend on political parties. Their representation on the posts of the Governors, the High Commissioners, the Ambassadors and Vice Chancellors is negligible. There is no reservation for them in the Semi-Government institutions either. The Hindu Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

cannot become priests or heads of Mathas because of Varna System. There should be reservations in the Semi-Government posts and amendment should be carried out in Hindu laws for making reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for priests and heads of Mathas. The quota fixed earlier in the services for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be filled in immediately. It will bring extensive social and academic changes in the life of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to request the Government that the constitution and law should be amended immediately to ensure reservation in all fields of activities.

[English]

- (v) **Need to take steps to enable Northern Districts of Malabar to receive Malayalam Programmes from Trivandrum Doordarshan**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): The people of Cannanore, Kasargod, Wyanad and parts of Calicut districts of Malabar have been eagerly looking forward to receiving Malayalam programmes being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra of Trivandrum. While other parts of Kerala have long since been fortunate in enjoying regional programmes being telecast by Trivandrum Doordarshan, these areas in Malabar are deprived of this opportunity. Time and again the matter has been represented but no positive steps have been taken although assurances have been made in this connection. Events and happenings in Malabar area are not being covered by programmes of Trivandrum Doordarshan. Programmes on Trivandrum Doordarshan are mostly confined to southern districts.

It is, therefore, my earnest request that immediate steps may be taken to enable the four northern most districts of Malabar to receive Malayalam programmes from Trivandrum and the ensure that Trivandrum Doordarshan gives due coverage to events and incidents occurring in Malabar area.