

437 *Statf. by Minister re.
re. fire in 383up Mokama
Danapur pass. train*

CHAITRA 27, 1912 (SAKA)

*Call. Atten. of urgent
public importance* 438

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: You can direct them to have it on the same day. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please understand that there is no difficulty if the Business Advisory Committee has to be called. If the hon. Speaker thinks that it has to be called, it can be called. But I am not passing any orders here. I am leaving it open. You please discuss it with him. The House has taken note that you are concerned and you want to discuss it. But don't get an order from me for the business tomorrow.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Even without BAC, we can take it up tomorrow. We will be happy, if he decides about the date, maybe tomorrow.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: We can discuss it tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Please allow me to make a submission. You know the concern of the House. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here. Fortunately, the Minister for Railways is also here. The entire House is very seriously concerned. If we want a discussion on this at the earliest, that can only be tomorrow.

Sir, Business Advisory Committee after all is a Committee of the House. So, we are all here—I am sure the hon. Speaker will have no objection—and if the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs agrees for tomorrow we can have a discussion under Rule 193 on this. The entire House is one on this Please agree to that. Let the Minister agree to it. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, I will discuss it with the Speaker. We have no objection for a discus-

sion. Let the Speaker decide the time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please understand that I had taken note of your feelings and I had kept it so open as to facilitate a discussion. If you have grasped what I had said, there would not have been any difficulty.

12.44 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported discontentment among the people affected by Narmada Dam Project and steps taken by Government to resolve the issues involved

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Naik.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"the reported discontentment among the people affected by the Narmada Dam Project in the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues involved."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): There have been reports about some discontentment among the people likely to be affected by the Narmada Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Dam Projects. Some representations have also been received by the Government.

[Sh. Manubhai Kotadia]

However, I wish to assure the House that all necessary steps are being taken by the Narmada Control Authority, set up by the Central Government in 1980, to ensure that the award given by the Tribunal is implemented in letter and spirit, including the clauses relating to Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the oustees.

All the three State Governments viz. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have already announced their Rehabilitation policies for rehabilitation and resettlement of oustees. The oustees of Sardar Sarovar Project, who agree to settle in Gujarat, will be granted a minimum of 2 hectares of land for agricultural purposes. Also every major son of the landed oustee will be treated as a separate family and entitled for land. In addition, the oustees will be provided about 502 sq. metre of land for housing. Besides giving other financial benefits like subsistence allowance, resettlement grant etc. civic amenities like schools, panchayat Ghar, dispensaries, seed stores, children parks, village pond, drinking water wells etc. are also being provided.

In the case of Madhya Pradesh, the Policy provides for rehabilitation of displaced families in the villages in the command areas or near the periphery of the affected areas in accordance with their preferences. At least 2 ha. of land will be allotted to every displaced land holder. In addition, all displaced families will be provided with house plot of about 502 sq. metres. Grant-in-aid would also be given to the extent of difference between the compensation paid for the previous dwelling and the cost of the house at the relocation site.

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In the case of oustees from Maharashtra, according to the Maharashtra Rehabilitation Policy, major sons of landed oustees and even the encroachers are entitled to

alternative house plot.

Landless and non-agricultural families would be assisted in the rehabilitation by giving grant-in-aid in the initial period and health wage and employment opportunities. Community facilities are also proposed to be provided. Any oustee from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, who is affected by the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project, can opt to settle in Gujarat and avail of concessions being given by the Government of Gujarat.

Narmada Control Authority has set up a Rehabilitation and Resettlement Sub-Group for monitoring the implementation of rehabilitation and resettlement issues. Secretary, Ministry of Welfare is the Chairman of this Sub-Group. The Group includes non-governmental experts also.

The progress achieved by the Government of Gujarat in rehabilitating the oustees from the areas which would be under submergence by Sardar Sarovar Project has been very satisfactory. 1544 families of Gujarat are allotted 3007 ha. of agricultural land out of the total number of 3322 families. Rs. 4.90 crores is paid as ex-gratia payment for purchase of land. Subsistence allowance amounting to Rs. 53.87 lakhs has been paid to 1776 families. 896 families are provided with residential plots. 14 rehabilitation sites are developed. 12 rehabilitation sites are electrified. Progress has also been made in the rehabilitation of oustees from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh States. 179 families of Maharashtra have been allotted residential and agricultural plots of 2 hectares each in Gujarat. Rehabilitation sites for setting other 80 families is under progress.

One rehabilitation site to accommodate 90 families of Madhya Pradesh is ready with all facilities. Out of 3750 hectares of private land shown to Madhya Pradesh officials; 2904 hectares has been selected by ou-

tees of Madhya Pradesh. Moreover, they have also selected 222 hectares of land in Gatal in Gujarat.

The Sardar Sarovar Project authorities have taken the help of various voluntary agencies in organising various activities for rehabilitation in the host villages. A Medical Diagnosis Camp has been organised at Parvata village through Lions Club of Ahmedabad.

Thus, all the required steps have been taken by the concerned Governments to take care of the persons affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project to ensure their rehabilitation well in time before the submergence of their area by the reservoir. As regards the Narmada Sagar Project in Madhya Pradesh, the dam work is only in a preliminary stage and resettlement of the oustees is being detailed out by Madhya Pradesh according to the provisions contained in the Rehabilitation Policy already announced by the State.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not elaborated clearly in his statement the points raised by me. It is a big project. Narmada Valley Development Project was mooted in 1947, and the award was given in 1980. When we go through the award, one thing becomes clear that for Gujarat it is a life line project? At the same time Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will also be benefited from it. In Gujarat, water for irrigation will be provided for 18 lakh hectares of land, and in Rajasthan, water for irrigation will be provided for 75 thousand hectares of land. As many as 3340 villages in Gujarat will get water for irrigation. So this is significant from irrigational and removing scarcity of drinking water point of view. Drinking water is to be made available to the 131 towns and 4720 villages in Gujarat. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

will get 1405 Mw of power from it. It is stated that about seven lakh people are expected to get employment under the project. However, the progress of work on the project is not at desired pace. An amount of Rs. 6406 crores is estimated to be spent on Sardar Sarovar Project and Narmada Sagar Project will cost Rs. 2000 crores. This means that a total of Rs. 8406 crores are to be spent on them. But one of its negative aspect is this that one lakh people will be displaced and the Government will have to resettle them. This problem has been becoming more acute. It is estimated that 19 villages in Gujarat, 36 villages in Maharashtra and 193 villages in Madhya Pradesh taking together a total of 248 villages are to be affected and the people of those villages will have to be ousted. It has been said in the statement that Maharashtra Government, Madhya Pradesh Government and Gujarat Government propose to allot alternative land to ousted. It has been said in the statement that Maharashtra Government, Madhya Pradesh Government and Gujarat Government propose to allot alternative land to the oustees. However so far as my information goes, work relating to their rehabilitation is not being accomplished properly. Though Maharashtra Government have chalked out a plan to allot land to them, but that is forest land and not revenue land. Thus the Government of India is to decide as to which kind of land is to be given to them. In Madhya Pradesh, Baba Amte and others launched a movement in this regard. There is no mention of it in the statement made in the House. It is merely a coincidence that when the matter is being discussed in the House today through a Calling Attention, persons who have started the movement to oppose Narmada Dam project are on 'dharna' at Boat Club since yesterday. It has been resorted in today's 'Indian Express' which has published a photograph also. There is a news item in today's Hindustan Times that a credit of two million dollars for Narmada Project has been sanctioned. On one hand, loans have been sanctioned for it, on the

[Sh. Ram Naik]

other people have come here to oppose the project. In such conflicting situation, we are having a discussion on it in the House today. It is a matter of coincidence. In order to remove all kinds of doubts, the Government should clarify the points. This will help in removing discontent in the affected people as also clearing hurdles coming in the way of execution of the project. A tribunal which was set up in 1980 has also given its award. It has, *inter-alia*, been recommended in the award that the Chief Ministers of the three states should hold discussion from time to time to sort out administrative problems. It is unfortunate that during the regime of the previous Government, the Chief Ministers of these three States could hold only one meeting during the period of the last ten years. However, there is no use now to rag the omission and commission of the previous Government in solving problem. In order to solve the present problem, a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the three States viz. Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra should be called to find ways and means as to how mistakes committed by the previous regimes can be undone. The hon. Minister should give a specific reply as to whether he is to hold a meeting of the Chief Minister or not in near future, unless a meeting of this sort is held, this problem will not be solved and it would go on continuing. In so far as the question of rehabilitation of oustees is concerned, as I already stated that about 1655 families would be displaced in Maharashtra. Out of them, 262 families have been offered land for resettlement by the Gujarat Government. There is need to think about the future of the remaining 1400 families. Maharashtra Government is prepared to allot only forest land to the displaced families because they do not have revenue land. The Minister incharge of Forests says that forest land cannot be allotted. Thus the Central Government will have to find a solution to the problem, and this will be possible only when a

meeting of the Chief Ministers of the three States is called. It should be attended by the Union Ministers of Environment and Forest and Water Resources. Their participation is absolutely necessary, otherwise no solution will be found. I would like that the Government of Maharashtra be directed to allot land and provide other facilities to rehabilitate the displaced families. The hon. Minister should come out with a statement in the House clearly stating therein the measures proposed to be taken by him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise yet another issue of propriety which is also equally important. I am raising this issue in reference to a recent visit of the Chairman of the Narmada Control Authority to a foreign country where he was insulted by an agency of the World Bank. This has been reported in the news papers also. A fine other persons to whom he met also insulted him. Who is supposed to represent our country in foreign countries? Are those environmentalists or the Chairman of the Authority authorised to represent the country? What action is proposed to be taken by the Government to counter the propoganda against our country made by some person in foreign countries. To my view, the Government should initiate discussion with those who are opposing the project so that we could know the reason why they are opposing it. We are a democratic country where every one has got right to express his view point. In view of it, I would like the Government to invite the people who are today sitting over dharna at Boat Club for talk. Before taking any decision on it, they should be heard. They should be persuaded to call off the dharna. In democracy, exchange of thoughts should be encouraged.

In the end, I would like to submit that I do not agree with the findings of the Archaeological Department that neither any temple nor any 'samadhi' in the area is to be submerged on completion of the project. The fact is otherwise as the 'samadhi' of Bajirao

Peshwa, who was instrumental in expanding the empire of Shivaji is located in the area likely to be submerged in Madhya Pradesh. This can be ascertained from historical records. I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Government to shift this 'samadhi' to other place so as to preserve it. I consider it to be very essential. This project would prove a boon for Gujarat. It must be completed and that too in time. In order to sort out problems, a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the three States should be immediately called. With the completion of this project, not only water for drinking and irrigational purposes will be made available to Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, but power will also be supplied to them. I would also like to know the measures being taken by the Government for early completion of the project which has been pending for the last forty years.

SHRI LAKSHMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir this matter relating to Narmada Project has been raised in the House through a Calling Attention. It is true that the kind of atmosphere being created in the name of environment in regard to high dams has created several doubts in the minds of the people living in the concerned areas. It is also true that not only Gujarat but Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra will also be benefited from it.

13.00 hrs.

Rajasthan will also be benefited by this project to some extent. But Madhya Pradesh will be the worst sufferer since as many as 200 of its villages will be affected. However, the main problem is that of the displacement of the residents of 200 villages. Though I fully support the move that both the Sardar Sarovar project and Indira Sagar should be constructed and there should be no delay in it. But I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that the undue delay is being caused in the execution of these proj-

ects. The Government should also take appropriate steps to remove the apprehensions gripping the minds of the people in this connection.

Very recently a 'rasta roko' agitation was lunched in connection with the environment problem and problem of the displaced persons arising out of the construction of Narmada Dam at Khalghat. A massive demonstration was staged and naturally that demonstration had slightly affected the day to day life of the people of that region. People have also started thinking if this question could be re-considered or should be re-considered. In this connection, the hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh convened a meeting in which experts of that particular field were invited. The meeting was also attended by the Member, Planning Commission, Member of Water Commission and the Chairman of the Narmada Authority, Madhya Pradesh. All these dignitaries held a discussion on the matter. It was concluded in the meeting that the process of dam construction should be accelerated and there should be no delay in it. But nothing special has been done in the direction of solving the problem of displacement of the people. Gujarat which is supposed to play a major role in this regard is also not doing anything. The people who will be displaced from Madhya Pradesh should be rehabilitated in Gujarat. They should be provided adequate land and given financial assistance and ex-gratia payment. People are highly apprehensive about it, and point of environmental problem is also raised by them as is evident from the words of an hon. Member who has just now raised that point. Some people are sitting on a dharna at the Boat Club. I have already said that people sat on a dharna at Khalghat. Thousands of people converged at the ghat and some misgivings have cropped up in their minds. I would, therefore, like to request the Government to take a clear stand in this regard. At the same time, I would like to request the hon. Minister to

[Sh. Lakshminarayan Pandeya]

clarify all these points in his statement. I would also like to request the hon. Minister to make it clear that the Government is fully committed to 1980 Award and will translate it into action. Otherwise, people have become apprehensive that there could be a second thought about the height of the dam or there could be a scope of discussion about the environmental protection. All these apprehensions must be removed for ever. The project under review does not involve the interests of 2-3 States only, rather it involves the interest of the country as a whole. This has been a long standing issue which needs to be decided once for all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that people have also a number of apprehensions regarding the earth tremors likely to be caused on account of the project. It is also said that it might adversely affect a vast stretch of land in the adjoining areas. It is also said that it will create environmental problems and other major problems which would prove disastrous to the people. All these aspects should be taken in account seriously. In this connection, I would like to suggest that the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and if possible, also the Chief Minister of Rajasthan should sit together and hold a serious discussion in the matter. They should also invite experts to the meeting to have their views to settle the matter once for all so that this question is not raised time and again and the people are not carried away by them. Otherwise, such agitations will continue to be there. Besides, it should also be ascertained as to who are the people who are engineering these agitations, what is the factual position and how they are managing the agitations and also who are the people who oppose the construction of big dams in the country.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For your benefit and for the benefit of other Members, I would like to bring to your notice the following:

"There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question relating to the subject. The Member who call the attention should not take more than ten minutes and other Members should not take more than five minutes."

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to conclude. Before that I would like to know the following three things from the hon. Minister viz. firstly, whether he proposes to convene a meeting of all the three Chief Ministers? Secondly, whether the Central Government will clarify its stand or declare its clear policy on the apprehensions being expressed at various quarters about threat being posed to environment and the fate of the people to be displaced. Thirdly, will the Central Government pronounce in clear terms that there are no proposals to modify or affect any change in the 1980 Award and the Government has a will to speed up the work as far as possible so that the Narmada project might prove to be a boon to the people. With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we make a full appraisal of the Narmada Dam Project, we will find that there has been abnormal delay in its execution. The Tribunal was set up in 1969 itself and by the time its report was received, it became as late as 1978. It was finalised in 1980. I would like to know, if with

that pace of progress, the cost of the project will not get escalated. With the escalation of cost, the work on the project will be affected.

Secondly, about 200 villages will be submerged under water and the villagers will have to be displaced. May I know whether adequate arrangements have been made to rehabilitate those people who are likely to be displaced? So far as I know, for this purpose an area of 13,000 hectares of land would be required whereas only 1400 hectares of land has so far been selected. If the work is carried at this pace, it will cause an anxiety in the minds of the people. Wherever major dams have been constructed, the displaced persons could not be rehabilitated. The present agitation is taking place in view of the plight of people who were displaced at the time of construction of earlier dams. The Government does not take up the work of rehabilitation in the same spirit as it takes up the construction work of the project. This has created apprehensions in the minds of the people. Will the Government expedite their efforts in this regard?

There are a number of places of historical importance in this region and these places are also likely to be submerged. Just now there was a reference to the 'Samadhi' of Baji Rao Peshwa-I and Maheshwar which is connected with Mata Ahilya. These are very important places. People are apprehensive of the safety of these places. The Government should take steps to remove these apprehensions.

After the construction of this dam, Madhya Pradesh will get 57 per cent of the electricity generated there. But the maximum benefit of this dam will accrue to Gujarat, where as Madhya Pradesh will be the worst sufferer. Had the height of the dam been reduced by 25-30 feet, less number of villages would have been submerged by it. Besides that, will the hon. Minister take some decision in respect of Harsud village? That is

what I would like to know from the Hon. Minister.

SHRI KASHIRAM CHHABILDAS RANA (Surat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak on this topic.

MR. SPEAKER: This type of question-answer is not there in respect of the Calling Attention Motions, Only those whose names figure in the list are permitted to speak.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to Shri Ram Naik, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya and Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan for the valuable suggestions they have made and they also provided me strength by their commendable views.

I would like to tell Shri Ram Naik that the Chief Minister's conference was convened on the 19th instant.

The meeting was fixed for day after tomorrow i.e. on 19th of this month but one Minister has gone out of station so the meeting has been postponed and now it is likely to be held in the first week of May. As the hon. Members have expressed concern over the matter, we shall discuss it in detail in the meeting to find out a solution to the problem. I will try my best to find out a solution to the problems we are facing in the execution of the project. The delay in the construction work, is escalating the cost of the project and it has caused apprehension in the minds of the people. If I am not wrong, the foundation stone of this Dam was laid in 1961 by the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru but the height of the dam, terms and conditions and other modalities were not finalised. As a result of it, the matter again came up and the final decision on the project was left to the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi but she also did not take any decision. In 1969 the matter was referred to the tribunal. In 1978, when Shri Morarji Desai

[Sh. Manubhai Kotadia]

was the Prime Minister, an award was given and the Government had to take certain action on it and the final award was given by the end of 1979. By that time Shri Morarji Desai's Janata Government was thrown out of power and the project again remained pending. At last the project was finalised in 1987-88 and then the work on this project was started.

Regarding the submersion I would like to assure the House that the affected persons will be paid full compensation and they will not have to face any difficulty. In this regard, instructions have been issued to the concerned department for speedy and proper action. Not only this, the irrigation Ministers of the States and concerned officers were called and were told that it was their responsibility to ensure that not even a single person or single family affected by the project should face any difficulty. So long as all the displaced families are not resettled, the water should not be filled in the dam. I am glad to know that the construction work of Sardar Sarovar is going on satisfactorily. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had visited the site and whatever he has said about it on the 9th of this month in the press I am going to quote if from the press report.

[English]

"The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Sharad Pawar has expressed his satisfaction over the construction works of the Sardar Sarovar project after visiting the dam site of the project at Kevadia Colony in Broach district.

Mr. Pawar, who visited to dam site yesterday, following agitations in Bombay against the project, said that he was convinced fully that not a single village of Maharashtra would be submerged during this year."

[Translation]

Not even a single village would be submerged during this year and they are fully committed to it. The agitation which is going on to oppose the project, is based on certain wrong information and whatever has been said by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Sharad Pawar after visiting the site, is correct. The Central Government is monitoring it and it would monitor it properly and I would once again like to assure the House that no body will face any difficulty there. At present there is a problem of rehabilitation of 1600 families of Maharashtra. Though the Gujarat Government have offered land for them but to this date only 179 families have gone to Gujarat and perhaps the rest of the families have not considered it good to go there. About 1400 families have yet to be rehabilitated and about 2700 Hectare forest land is required for them. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra informed us that since they had no surplus land with them, they could not allot land to the displaced families. So far as the acquisition of Forest land is concerned, the matter is being discussed and I assure the House that the problem of land allotment will be solved. The Government will certainly make their all out efforts to solve their problems and whatever is required to be done on the part of the Government for the land allotment, will be done. I would like to say to the Members that those people who were living in forests, should be rehabilitated there, but if they are persuaded the future of their children would be a brighter one what is happening there in Bengal...(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a wrong thing. They have certain benefits in living there...(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA (Shajapur): Their fertile land worth lakhs of rupees is being submerged and you want to rehabilitate them in forest. They should be given fertile land otherwise they would not

agree to go there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I agree with him. They should get more and better land than what they have in their possession. It is right. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Their land worth lakhs of rupees are being acquired and what are you doing for them?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: We went to rehabilitate them in forest. Action is being taken to earmark forest land for them. *(Interruptions)* What will the people, who live in forest, do if they are rehabilitated elsewhere...*(Interruptions)*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: In Gujarat sufficient surplus land is not available for all the displaced families. So what arrangements the Government would make for them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: It is not an easy thing to settle at a new place...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: The Gujarat Government have given guarantee of allotment...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMANUBHAI KOTADIA: It is a good suggestion that the matter should be discussed with the people who are coming to Boat Club tomorrow for dharna. I will do something and meet them so that a solution to the problem can be found...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It cannot be done like this every time. That is not the proper way to discuss it.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: One thing has been said that the Chairman of Narmada Corporation, who was on a foreign tour, was insulted there. Such news might have appeared in the Newspapers, but the Chairman has not yet met me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you please address the chair.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, he addresses you but looks this side.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then it can be discussed.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: We will discuss it with the Chairman as to what had happened and how it happened. After getting information from him, we will do whatever we can do. Care will be taken of the Samadhi of Bajirao Peshwa and Ahilya temple. I would issue instructions to the department to make necessary arrangements. Sumitraji has asked about the height. The tribunal has given us award in which it has been mentioned that the decision in this matter can't be taken unless the concerned states are taken into confidence. The tribunal has given this award. It seems that the agitation which is going on, is not for the reasons based on facts. Therefore, I think there is no need to reduce the height *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Babu Amte has launched an agitation in Gujarat... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I have given reply to all the points raised by the hon. Members in the discussion to draw my attention. Some members have sought more in-

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[English]

formation which I would give them later on. I thank all the hon. Members.

- (ii) **Need to impress upon Rural Electrification corporation or power Finance Corporation to provide cent per cent loan for System improvement works at lower rate of interest**

13.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) **Need to take steps to protect people from tigers in areas adjacent to Corbet Park**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to increase in the number of tigers in the Corbet National Park in Uttar Pradesh and due to non-availability of adequate food for them the tigers come in the areas adjacent to this park and it creates a terror in the neighbouring villages.

In my constituency about 200 people have been either killed or injured by tigers during the last three years. There is terror in the villages on that account. At present also, three man-eaters are active in this area. Sillour and Sult villages are gripped in terror.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take measures to control these tigers. For that purpose more and more wild life Guards should be appointed and steps should be taken to provide barbed wire fencing on all sides of these sanctuaries steps should also be taken up to give compensation to the families of the persons killed or injured by these tigers on the same pattern as it is being paid to the persons killed or injured in rail or air accidents.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): At present, System Improvement Works, including Extra High Tension line-works are being funded by either Power Finance Corporation or Rural Electrification Corporation. These Institutions sanction loans upto only 50 per cent of the estimated cost of schemes. State Electricity Boards do not generate surplus funds to contribute the balance 50 per cent of the schemes' requirements. Hence, the progress and completion of System Improvement and Extra High Tension works get delayed.

It is, therefore, necessary that Power Finance Corporation and rural Electrification Corporation should sanction loans upto 100 per cent of the schemes' cost. Adequate provision should be made for the price escalation factor as well, for the necessary equipment.

The rate of interest charged for loans from the said financial institutions is 11.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent. Sometimes, even 3 per cent consultation charges are added. The rate of interest should be kept lower than that for other loans. Further, consultation fees must be completely waived, as State Electricity Boards do not require consultancy services.

I urge upon the Government of India to take a favourable decision in the matter, to enable successful bridging of acute power shortage, so vitally necessary for improving our rural economy.