

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need to re-start the irrigation projects in Chandrapur Bhandara and Garhghiroli, districts of Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : More than 63 per cent area in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garhghiroli districts of Maharashtra is covered with forests. This is essential for maintaining ecological balance. But, on the pretext of observing forest conservation rules, the work of irrigation projects has been held up and even the projects under rural employment scheme have been held up. This has resulted in unemployment of lakhs of workers who are facing starvation. On the other hand, cutting of trees for selling wood in authorised jungles is going on. The farmers in these districts are facing famine conditions due to non-completion of irrigation works in those areas.

I, therefore, request the Government to pay attention to this and try to implement the irrigation projects in the areas by relaxing the relevant rules so as to enable the farmers to become self-supporting and self-reliant. I may also add that if these schemes are implemented, the area can grow enough rice to meet the needs of the entire Maharashtra.

[*English*]

- (ii) Need to relax ban on filling up existing posts and creating new ones in the hilly areas

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, the imposition of the ban on the filling up of the existing vacancies and the creation of the new posts which are justified even on the basis of workload has resulted in a serious setback to development process especially in the rural and the hilly areas of the country. While the need to curb the increase in non-plan expenditure is understandable, it is essential to see that this does not result

in a setback to development or disruption or deterioration in the normal services. Thus it is an ironical situation, that while the P & T Department is being bifurcated resulting in the upgradation of many posts and the creation of new posts, the Ministry of Finance has imposed a blanket ban on the opening of even Branch Post Offices where only extra departmental hands and no regular employees are being appointed or even on the upgradation of Post Offices where the State Governments/ Panchayats/ Local Public are willing to pay the losses by crediting NRC.

12.06 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*].

It is therefore requested that the imposition of the ban may be relaxed in case of hilly areas of the country as defined by the Planning Commission, because of their economic backwardness, slow pace of development and difficult geographical terrain.

- (iii) Shifting certain Branches of the Rocket Launching Station from Sriharikota to Bangalore

SHRI V. SOBHANEDREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, it is reliably learnt that many Branches and sections in the Rocket-launching station at Sriharikota are being shifted to Bangalore. It is learnt that many persons have already been transferred. This is contrary to the assurance given by the late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi that such shifting will not be done when people went on strike nearly 18 months back when the move became known.

- (iv) Need to introduce television facility in Trichur.

SHRI P.A. ANTONY (Trichur) : Sir, Trichur is the geographical centre of Kerala and cultural capital of the State, the literacy in the 1981 census is 92.5% which is the highest in India. Agriculture University of Kerala, Government