

move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI A.K. SEN : I introduce the Bill.

12.07 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Installation of high power transmitters in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Sriganganagar in Rajasthan

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : It is gratifying to note that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has taken effective steps to expand the television net-work in the country so as to cover 70 per cent population by the end of 1984-85.

It is a virtual media revolution which will go a long way in not only educating, informing and entertaining the people but also bringing about national integration. The Ministry had expanded the T.V. through low power transmitters in the border towns of Rajasthan viz., Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Sriganganagar. These districts are very large in size and are sparsely populated. The low power transmitters have a viewing range of only 25 kms. Only 5 to 10 per cent of the population of these districts will be benefited as against the target of 70 per cent, to be covered in the country. Almost 65% of the population has already been covered.

All these districts are exposed to Pakistan T.V. signals which are very powerful. We can counter-act the Pakistani propaganda only if we considerably strengthen our media in these areas.

It is therefore requested that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may take immediate decision for installing high power

transmitters in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Sriganganagar.

- (ii) Conversion of Kakinda Port into a major port

SHRI THOTA GOPALA KRISHNA (Kakinada) : A proposal to convert Kakinada port as a major port with the assistance of the World Bank was under the consideration of the Central Government. The Prime Minister has given assurance to the people of Kakinada to undertake this project early.

This is a project which will be useful not only to the town, but also to the entire Andhra Pradesh. The people of that area are greatly agitated due to delay in undertaking this project. Early action in this regard will satisfy the people of this area.

- (iii) Need for Central assistance to drought affected people of Orissa and also for irrigation schemes

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Under Rule 377, I beg to raise the following matter of urgent public importance :

Very serious drought conditions in Orissa since September, 1984 had caused large-scale crop loss in 7.83 lakh hectares in 138 blocks of the State including Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Nayagarh sub-divisions affecting and causing wide-spread misery to a population of over 55 lakhs. Earlier, the standing crops in 4.19 lakh hectares were also damaged by floods.

I urge upon the Central Government to come in a big way to the assistance of the drought-affected people of the State by assisting them with Rs 200 crores, so that the people are provided with employment, and irrigation schemes are worked out for preventing further drought conditions in areas where irrigation facilities are not available.

[Translation]

- (iv) Shortage of currency notes and coins of smaller denominations

SHRIMATIPATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot) : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, there has been shortage of coins and one rupee notes in the country for the past few months. Wherever you go, nobody is prepared to give you coins, whether he is a small trader or a big businessman. Everybody says that coins are not available with him because Government does not supply them. When such is the situation in cities, then the plight in small villages and rural areas can be imagined where quarrels and fracas take place on the issue of small coins. It is the poor man who is the sufferer. Women have to face difficulties in particular.

When people go to banks, they are told that the change has not been received from the Head Office and that the Reserve Bank does not supply notes of smaller denomination. Even in the Parliament House Bank, small coins or one rupee notes are not available. When Members of Parliament have to face such a situation then what would be the condition of common man.

This is happening due to the reason that hoarders and capitalists have cornered small notes and coins and now exchange sixty paise coins for one rupee. In this way they are exploiting the poor and needy people.

I, therefore, request the government that the coins and one rupee notes should be distributed by the government through co-operative stores, Nationalised Banks, Super Bazar and Government treasury. Black marketeers and hoarders should be arrested and put behind the bars. In view of the shortage, the Govt. should promulgate an ordinance to the effect that if any person is found in possession of small coins worth more than hundred rupees then the coins would be seized and he would be awarded severe punishment.

- (v) Need for directive to Cotton Corporation of India to purchase Narma Cotton in order to help farmers

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price of Narma was about Rs 675/- per quintal in Nov. 1984 which came down to Rs. 530/- per quintal in the month of December 1984 and January, 1985. The Government should, therefore, ask C.C.I. to enter the market for purchase of 'Narma' cotton so as to

ensure fair price to the farmers for their produce.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister for Agriculture should speak to the other Minister also.

12 14 hrs.

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

- (vi) Inclusion of Nishad Mallah, Rajbhar and Bind castes in the category of Scheduled Castes

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazi-pur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, people belonging to Nishad, Mallah, Rajbhar and Bind castes live in almost all the States of the country in large numbers. These people are as much economically and socially backward as persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In some of the States of the country these people are included in the list of scheduled castes while in other states including Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, these people have not been included in the list of scheduled castes. Where people of these castes have not been included in the list of scheduled castes, there has been a long standing demand from these people that they should be included in the list of scheduled castes. Perhaps this matter is under the consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

If these people belonging to weaker sections of the society are included in the list of scheduled castes, they will get lot of facilities and they would also get the same opportunities for progress as are available to the people of scheduled castes. I request the Minister of Home Affairs to take early action to include these castes in the list of scheduled castes in all parts of the country.

- (vii) Supply of drinking water through pipelines to Gyanpur Tehsil areas of Mirzapur Distt. (U P.)

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the level of water of wells is going down rapidly and wells are drying up in Gyanpur Tehsil and adjoining areas of my Parliamentary constituency Mirzapur (U.P.). Availability of drinking water is becoming a problem in villages and towns of this area even in the