

11.54 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need to restore Vayudoot service from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) Sir, I would like to submit a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

About two years back, there was a Vayudoot service from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar via Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Jeypore. The Dornier flight met with an accident after some time near Poona in Maharashtra. Since then, the flight is not operating due to non-availability of aircraft. The passengers from Bhubaneswar and Jeypore used to avail of the facility of this Vayudoot service to its full capacity. Now they face a lot of difficulties as they have to travel by road from Jeypore to Bhubaneswar or Visakhapatnam through Eastern Ghat mountains which takes about 8 and 16 hours to reach Visakhapatnam and Bhubaneswar respectively.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Civil Aviation to restore the Vayudoot service immediately.

- (ii) Need to set up a regional autonomous development council for Western Orissa.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): It is a matter of regret that proper attention is not being paid for the overall development of Western Orissa. As a result, in this region of Orissa which is full of natural resources with large tribal population, resentment and discontentment among the people is very much on the rise. What is therefore required is to set up a regional autonomous development council for Western Orissa forthwith in order to ensure its speedy all round development, fighting out its over-

increasing backwardness and regional imbalances.

- (iii) Need to allocate funds for channelisation of water of river Swan in Una district of Himachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the river Swan and its 73 tributaries create havoc every year in Una district of Himachal Pradesh in the rainy season. Every year crops and properties worth crores of rupees are swept away. There is heavy loss of life and property. Many people become homeless and they have to face great difficulties. State Government and the Central Government have been requested many times for the channelisation of water of this river but nothing has been done in this regard.

If river Swan and its 73 Tributaries are channelised, not only property worth crores of rupees can be saved, but thousands of acres of agricultural land will be available for agricultural purposes. If this is done sugar-cane, ground-nut, grain and fruits may be produced in abundance there, which will fulfil the requirements of the State as well as of the country. With limited resources the State Government cannot carry out this task. Hence, I request the Central Government to allocate adequate funds in the Budget of this year for that purpose so that people could get relief.

- (iv) Need to review the policy of the Government in respect of opium farming in Madhya Pradesh and to provide necessary help to opium growers.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the Government's policy in respect of opium farming, which is job oriented and a source of raising foreign exchange, thousands of opium growers of Madhya Pradesh are in distress. Due to heavy loss to this crop in the year 1990-91 and arbitrations of the authorities, such a situation is there that their licences are

[D. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya]

liable to be cancelled any time on the ground of below average production. Due to application of different unscientific methods of average test in different states and inaccurate measurement, thousands of the farmers have to face great difficulties. This matter is of public interest and of urgent nature as future of thousands of the farmers depends on it. Some difficulty and crisis may occur in deciding the policy and in the renewal of the licences of the farmers. So, I request the Minister of Finance to make a statement about it.

- (v) **Need for oil exploration in North and South 24 Parganas and Nadia districts in West Bengal and Kathana—Kalam-sar in Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat). It has been widely reported in the Press that two large areas in West Bengal and Gujarat are floating on oil. But these reservoirs are not being properly exploited. The areas are North and South 24 Parganas and Nadia Districts of West Bengal extending upto the Indo-Bangladesh border, and Kathana-Kalam-sar in Gujarat.

It is claimed by a retired superintending geologist that the giant petroleum reserve in West Bengal and the adjoining off-shore Bay of Bengal was discovered in 1984, by stratigraphic interpretation of sophisticated seismic data. The off-shore data was acquired by Notomos group of oil companies of USA and on-shore data of the Southern part of West Bengal by a Soviet team.

The ONGC have the necessary technology knowhow and equipment for exploiting this reservoir of oil in West Bengal. It is estimated that an additional 22 million tonnes of crude oil per year would have been produced to make India self-sufficient in oil within a short period of time.

This has been deliberately scuttled by the interested oil lobbies within the country and outside who are interested in perpetuating India's oil dependence on other.

I demand a statement from the Petroleum Minister on the subject.

12.00 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1991-92--
GENERAL DISCUSSION

AND

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS--
(RAILWAYS), 1991-92

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the combined discussion on (i) General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1991-92 and (ii) Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1991-92 for which 8 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1991-92 have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the consolidated fund of India, to complete

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.