

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Matter under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—*Contd.*

[*English*]

- (iv) Demand for conducting a survey in areas where drinking water is obtained from tubewells with a view to take preventive steps against arsenic poisoning

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Under Rule 377, I make the following statement.

The report in the Statesman of Feb. 17, '87 which states that arsenic poisoning among rural people is on the increase in West Bengal, should cause grave concern. For, the cause of this is stated to be arsenic content in the strainers of tubewells made by various foundaries which are mostly small scale units. If this report on the cause of the disease prepared by an expert of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Calcutta is any guide, surely this same danger of arsenic poisoning is definitely there in rural areas of Bihar and other parts of the country where drinking water is obtained from tubewells. Therefore, steps should be taken immediately to check the arsenic content of metal strainers of tubewells, instruct founderies to take steps to reduce this and prescribe proper standards for the composition of the metals used in all tubewells to protect public health. An immediate survey should also be launched in areas where drinking water is obtained from tubewells to help take preventive steps against arsenic poisoning before it is too late.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Need to adopt necessary measures to remove terrorist elements from places of worship in the country

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people are

living in fear due to extremism in many parts of the country and the Government has taken sufficient proper action to stamp out extremism. The State Governments have also been asked to deal with extremism sternly.

I would like to request that the Government should enact a law to the effect that there will be no ban on the entry of Police in temples, gurudwaras and mosques to arrest those people who are engaged in anti-national activities so that the sanctity of these places could be maintained and the people could go there for offering prayers according to their faith without any fear.

I would also like to submit that Himachal Pradesh is a neighbouring State of Punjab. The police force in the State should be strengthened so that peace may be maintained in that state as usual.

[*English*]

- (vi) Need to look into and redress the grievances of College and University teachers in the country

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Sir, college and university teachers all over India are observing ceasework today (25-2-1987) as their pay-scales have not been revised for the last 14 years. They demand immediate revision of their pay scales. The teachers also have raised their voice of protest against most of the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee as these recommendations are looked upon as an attempt to bureaucratise education.

These recommendations include "abolition of the promotion scheme, an obnoxious evaluation system, a code of conduct, a reduction in the age of retirement and re-employment, a national qualifying test for the recruitment of college and university teachers, establishment of readers and professors; grades only in a selected few colleges, an increase in the probation period from one to two years, promotion on the basis of refresher courses organised only by the Indira Gandhi National Open University" etc.

The teachers argue that neither the Mehrotra Committee nor the Government

consulted any of the teachers' organisations at the time of preparing the report. Anyway, the teachers now demand immediate revision of pay-scales, and the Government should look into the matter and take necessary steps for the redressal of their grievances.

- (vii) Need to expedite the work of doubling the railway track between Chengalpattu and Villupuram in Tamil Nadu

DR. S. JAGATRAKSHAKAN (Chengalpattu) : It has been the grievance of the daily railway passengers of Tamil Nadu that there is lack of railway facilities from Chengalpattu and also from Villupuram for coming to Madras for daily work. The passengers are therefore pressing for extension of more Railway facilities and running of more trains from Villupuram to Madras. At present, doubling of track is only upto Tambaram and to some extent to Chingleput. It is therefore very necessary that doubling work between Chengalpattu and Villupuram is taken up without further delay. Already sufficient funds have been provided during the Sixth Plan and also in the Seventh Plan. I plead with the Railway Minister to give top priority to this matter and take up this work very expeditiously. In the first phase doubling must be taken up to Chengalpattu positively.

- (viii) Need to rationalise the new sugar policy and approve proposals for new sugar factories in cooperative sector on the basis of irrigation potential

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : The new sugar policy announced by the Government of India contains a serious contradiction in terms. It is patently detrimental to the development of backward regions from all points of view. Backward regions are backward because they do not have readymade infra-structure of availability of raw material and of transport facilities etc. to attract public and private sector entrepreneurs. Cooperative efforts, therefore, are the only hope for any economic development in a backward region. There is, however, one more constraint that deters

the people from participating in a cooperative venture. People in a backward region are poor. Even if they are persuaded to invest some money to form the necessary share capital, they have no retaining power at all and they expect returns on their investment within reasonable time.

Against this background, the condition of availability of sugar cane crops made necessary in the new sugar policy will hardly ever allow a sugar factory coming up in our backward region of Vidarbha.

Making the availability of sugarcane crops necessary before approving a proposal for a sugarfactory, is to put the cart before the horse. Sugarcane crops will materialise only when there is a factory to crush the sugarcane profitably for the growers.

It is absolutely necessary, therefore, to rationalise the new sugar policy realistically and to approve the proposals for new sugar factories in the cooperative sector only on the basis of irrigation potential as was the case before. This alone will pave the way for any development of backward regions like Vidarbha.

- (ix) Demand to set up a T.V. studio at Vijayawada

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Vijayawada T.V. relay station is located on the Hill top at Kondapally, due to which the coverage has increased considerably. Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, West Godavari, Khammam, part of the Nalgonda and East Godavari Districts will be covered under present arrangement. But unfortunately, due to Indrakuladri Hill in some parts of Vijayawada city there is considerable distortion putting the T.V. viewers to lot of inconvenience. I suggest that immediate steps should be taken to instal "TRANSPower" to rectify this trouble. Previously I was informed that the Government has a proposal to set up T.V. studio at Vijayawada during Seventh Plan. Now the Transmission in Telugu language has invoked tremendous zeal in the people which is going to play remarkable role in the near future on a number of T.V sets in the area. I suggest that immediate steps