

13.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translations]

- (i) **Need to open purchase centres for potatoes and construction of more cold storages in Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh this year the potato growers have been compelled to sell potatoes at rates lesser than their cost of production. The capacity of the cold storages is not adequate to meet the requirement of the entire produce of potatoes. The situation is so serious that the potatoes grown with hard work have started rotting with the rise in temperature.

The U.P. Government had announced that the potato growers would be given the minimum support price of Rs. 50 per quintal but the Government have not made any arrangement for the purchase of potatoes. The cost of production of potatoes comes to Rs. 40 per quintal whereas the farmers are not getting more than Rs. 25 to 30 per quintal in the market.

In such a situation, I request the Minister of Agriculture to ensure to the farmers remunerative price for potatoes. The Government should open purchase centres at different places. With a view to protecting potatoes, arrangements should be made for cold storages in States other than U. P. also. Keeping in view the heavy production of potatoes in U. P., in addition to the immediate arrangements, Government should ensure the construction of more cold storages in that State and constitute a central agency which should purchase potatoes from the farmers directly.

[English]

- (ii) **Financial Assistance to the state of Orissa to meet drinking water scarcity**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Drinking water scarcity in the State of Orissa has become very acute specially in this hot summer season. Many villages of the state, specially in coastal belts are facing a lot of difficulties due to absence of drinking water. These villages are all situated in saline belts where sweet water is not available in tanks, ponds, rivers, creeks or wells, etc. The only alternative to get drink-

ing water is deep tubewells. On the initiative of the Union Government, the DANIDA, an organisation of Denmark Government was entrusted by the State Government of Orissa to provide drinking water in these coastal districts 4 years back. But due to financial constraints of the Orissa Government, they ultimately refused to entrust the responsibility to this DANIDA organisation. During all these years, the drinking water problem has become very acute specially in the current year due to inadequate rainfall. The financial condition of the State does not allow them to provide tubewells in these villages according to the minimum needs.

I would, therefore, request the Union Government to come to the rescue of the State Government to finance them with the required funds that the State Government may be able to provide drinking water in the affected villages.

- (iii) **Need to take steps to encourage tourism in Jammu and Kashmir**

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : After a lapse of two years of continuous failure in tourist trade, Jammu and Kashmir this time is again looking forward for better prospects for tourism, which happens to be the backbone of the State's economy. Throughout this period of political turmoil and economic deprivity the most hit were the artisans, petty traders, shopkeepers, daily wage earners, hoteliers, etc. This resulted in the paralysis of the tourist oriented trade and commerce. Kashmir with most beautiful spots covering world renowned gold grounds, ski patches, lakes and lush green meadows with unmatched attractions coupled with super-artistic qualifications of its artisans could not only be source of bounty to the local inhabitants but valuable asset for the growth of Indian tourism.

Government of India has not given proper place to Kashmir in its tourist map so far. The tremendous and vast potential it has for investments in tourism and capacity to generate national wealth has unfortunately been ignored. The Centre should finance the various schemes of the State Government in its venture to attract the tourists from all over the world on a large scale.

In order to augment the tourist trade in Kashmir, the Centre must assist magnani-