

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Deb, it is irrelevant. Please sit down.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

SHRI SARAT DEB (Kendrapara) : I am not mentioning anything about Ram Swaroop's case. I want to say something about Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : You can come and tell me in the Chamber. No Orissa business here.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would like you to withdraw from the House if you do like that. It is a State matter.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Orissa Government is not here. It cannot be discussed here. It can be taken up on the floor of that House.

Now matters under Rule 377.

12.18-30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Demand for construction of a railway line from Maharajpur Station to Mandla Fort in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter of public importance under Rule 377 :—

District Mandla of Madhya Pradesh is most backward in the matter of transportation facilities and there is not even a single national highway there. During the British regime there was a proposal to construct a railway line from Nainpur, the main junction of South-eastern narrow gauge line—to Mandla Fort, but instead the line was constructed up to Maharajpur only on the other side of Narmada river, which is unsuitable from every point of view. In this connection I had made a

request that the railway line be extended from Maharajpur to Mandla Fort which is already in the record. Even today the tickets are issued in the name of Mandla Fort, but its survey was conducted upto the other side of Narmada river only. The most important thing was the construction of a railway bridge on Narmada river which has been abandoned.

Sir, one can easily understand why the Britishers must have deliberately abandoned the proposal, because they were foreigners and they were merely interested in ruling the country. They were least bothered about public welfare and provision of facilities to the people. Even though our Government is committed to the development of backward and undeveloped districts, it has not done anything in this direction for the last 38 years.

Therefore, I urge the hon. Railway Minister to pay special attention in this direction and give priority to the construction of railway line in this stretch of 5 kms. between Maharajpur Station and Mandla Fort. This is absolutely essential in public interest.

- (ii) Need to provide adequate relief to the drought affected people of Churu district of Rajasthan.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : I want to draw the attention of the Central Government under Rule 377 to the plight of my Constituency, Churu—which is a desert district of Rajasthan.

The farmers of Churu have been ruined by famine conditions which has struck the district regularly for the last eight years during the last decade. Due to acute shortage of water and fodder, cattle wealth is perishing. The purchasing power of weaker section has gone down considerably. The Fair Price Shops are not playing a decisive role in improving the situation. Though the district has a population of about 15 lakhs, but only 18,000 people have been provided employment opportunities under the famine relief programme which is far from adequate. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to provide employment to at least 1 lakh poor people under the famine relief programme. It is

essential that more and more roads should be constructed in order to provide transportation facilities to this backward area. Due to acute shortage of drinking water, people are migrating to other places along with the livestock. More funds should be provided under the Minimum Needs Programme. In order to drill more tube-wells in my area rig machines should be made available in my area.

(iii) **Need to take over the Anand Sugar Mill in Khalilabad U.P.**

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir reports are pouring in from various parts of the Country that some industries have already closed down and some are on the verge of closure or are likely to be closed down in near future. In this connection, to keep a close watch over sick industries, the Government has introduced a Bill envisaging improvement in conditions and smooth functioning of units and it is pending for consideration in the House. Nevertheless, there are some problems, the solution to which does not seem imminent even when the Bill is passed. In this very context, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Anand Sugar Mill at Khalilabad in district Basti of Uttar Pradesh. The reported announcement about the closure of the mill due to inability of the concerned mill owners to run the Mill is certainly unfortunate. Whereas due to the closure of the Mill, on the one hand thousands of workers would be rendered jobless, and their families will face starvation, on the other hand the farmers who have produced sugarcane by the sweat of their brow, will be deprived of their money as the mill owners are not in a position to pay the arrears of lakhs of rupees due towards them. As a result of this there is widespread resentment among the farmers in the entire area.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Industry to take over the Mill in the public interest in view of the fact that it is the only source of livelihood for the workers employed therein and also in view of poverty and unemployment prevailing in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(iv) **Demand for opening Ayurvedic department in every District hospital and giving the same pay etc. to the Ayurvedic doctors as is being given to the Allopathic doctors.**

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISRA (Janjgir) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the deplorable plight of Ayurvedic system of medicine and Ayurvedic doctors.

Ayurved is the most ancient system of medicine. Our young Prime Minister wants that we should preserve our heritage and as it is our legacy and it is the oldest system of medicine in the world it should be preserved and protected. But it is a pity that neither Ayurvedic hospitals are being opened in the country nor adequate recognition and facilities are being provided to Ayurvedic doctors.

The most surprising thing is that even today Ayurvedic doctors in Madhya Pradesh are employed in the district dispensaries on a paltry sum of Rs. 300 per month and this has been the state of affairs for the last 15 years. Besides, there are no buildings for these dispensaries. This is not only a blemish on legacy but also a slur on the humanity.

I request the Government to open an Ayurvedic department in every district hospital in the country and provide the same salary and other facilities to Ayurvedic doctors as are given to allopathic doctors in order to improve their economic condition and thereby enable thousands of people living in rural areas, to take the benefit of Ayurvedic system of medicine according to their choice.

Ayurved is becoming increasingly popular among urbanites because the Ayurvedic medicines do not have any side effects.

I demand that the Government should initiate steps at Government level to popularise this system in other countries so that they could know about our ancient culture and could derive benefit from this age-old, time-tested, system of medicine.