

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of the Rehabilitation Council of India for regulating the training of rehabilitation professionals and the maintenance of a Central Rehabilitation Register and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: I introduce the bill.

12.52 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to permit the Government of Karnataka to raise funds through bonds to finance the irrigation and power projects in the state**

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Karnataka Government had taken number of irrigation and power projects to utilise the available potential to provide basic infrastructure necessary for the speedy development of the state. Besides a substantial amount has been allocated for two sectors in State plan every year. However, these allocations are extremely inadequate and much below the investment needed.

The State Government is making all efforts to ensure that both these sectors are adequately funded. Due to severe resource constraints and the need to ensure basic minimum allocations for the local services

sector the State Government had earlier approached the Government of India for permission to raise money through special issue of bonds exclusively for financing irrigation project. The State Government had informed the Ministry of Finance that the policy of permitting the State Government public sector corporation to issue bonds should be considered.

The State Government had urged the Centre to permit them to raise funds from the market. I urge upon the Government to allow the Government of Karnataka to raise the capital through bond to meet the irrigation and power shortage in the State.

- (ii) **Need to expedite financial assistance for the development of Mahendragiri in Orissa**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mahendragiri in Orissa is situated in the Easter Chats region. It is one ancient eco-system, situated on a high plateau with an elevation of 1500 metres. Its forests extend over 70,000 acres and fall within deciduous tropical-forest zone. Indeed, Mahendragiri has the potential of becoming a tourist centre, *par excellence*.

Sadly, the forests have already sustained colossal degradation, due to rampant shifting-cultivation, indiscriminate tree-felling and heartless wild-life poaching. Time has come to arouse awareness for its regeneration among people of that area. Intensive mass-education awareness programmes with a thorough study of the fauna, flora and tribes of Mahendragiri, are essential.

The above facts justify immediate attention and action from the Government side. The Orissa Environmental Society has proposed to the Ministry of Environment & Forests and also the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India on 6.4.1990, seeking financial assistance to hold a two-day workshop-cum-seminar on the Mahendragiri Forest ecology study, at Parlakhemundi town in Ganjam District dur-

ing December, 1990. However, no response has been received from either Ministry, so far.

I would urge the Central Government, to expedite the financial assistance sought by the Orissa Environmental Society towards the workshop-cum-seminar on Mahendragiri, for not only preserving its wonderful ecosystem, but also developing it into an ideal tourist centre.

- (iii) **Need to take up the construction of Govind Vallabh Pant Environment Institute, Almora, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an Environment Institute, a unique of its kind in the world was sanctioned for Katarmal in Almorah district, Uttar Pradesh in the year 1982-83 by the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Later, it was named as Govind Vallabh Pant Environment Institute. This Institute has already started working there. The required land for construction of a building, laboratory etc. has been made available by the State Government and the local people.

Due to certain reasons construction work of the building of the Institute has not been taken up.

I, therefore, request the Environment Minister and Government of India to arrange to take up construction work of this institute soon.

- (iv) **Need to convert Ahmedabad—Delhi metre gauge Railway line into broad gauge.**

[English]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): There is a pressing need for converting Ahmedabad-Delhi metre gauge railway line into broad gauge, so as to cover railway stations in Pali district, namely, Falna, Rani,

Jawai Bandh, Marwar Junction, etc. This scheme was approved twenty-five years ago but the same was shelved due to certain reasons.

A large number of passengers who travel from Bombay, Madras, etc. have to change to metre gauge at Ahmedabad, due to which they have to face lot of harassment and inconvenience. I urge upon the Government to immediately accept the plan of converting metre gauge into broad gauge on this route, and the Government of Rajasthan and Gujarat too should be asked to extend their cooperation in the respect.

- (v) **Need to increase the capacity of T.V. transmission centres at Kasargod and Kannur**

SHRI M. RAMANNA (Kaargod): T.V. Transmission relay centres at Kasargod and Kannur are unable to cater to a vast majority of the population of Kasargod and Kannur district because these two relay centres are very low power transmission centres. People living between Husdurg Taluk to Taliparamba Taluk are feeling left out because they are unable to receive the programmes relayed from these centres. The Malayalam programmes televised from Trivandrum Station are also not received in these centres. There is a large number of Kannada speaking population in the Kasargod district and they are also not receiving Kannada programmes. Kasargod is a bilingual district where both Malayalam and Kannada are studied and spoken.

Therefore, I request the honourable Minister for Information and Broadcasting to take immediate steps to increase the power of the transmission centres of Kasargod and Kannur or to set up a new T.V. transmitter (at the centre of Kasargod and Kannur districts) for the benefit of the people of Kasargod and Kannur Districts.

I also request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to make available Malayalam and Kannada programmes at Kasargod T.V. Relay Centre.