

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