

the court here and on our complaint lodged with the Scotland Yard from November upto December, not much has been done. So our Police people, the CBI, to their credit we have to say it, immediately moved into action and arrested him and not only as he had stated and some other hon. Members also stated, fake passports and all these things were found. They booked a case against Mr. Sethia also under various provisions. Now in that case almost they have completed their investigation and they are waiting for the sanction and there also prosecution will be instituted.

Now a question is asked : why a complaint was lodged in England and with the Scotland Yard? The offence took place in London. All the officers were there. The documents were there. The Indian banks thought that it would be expedient to investigate and justice could be secured immediately and all these people could be brought to book. With that idea the complaint has been lodged there. Nobody can say that it is not to our credit. Why should we belittle ourselves? We have been moving very fast the Indian government and the Indian people and India's image also is involved as the hon. Member has stated and we moved very fast and immediately that man was arrested. There was no time because he was about to leave the country. If our CBI had not acted on time or had wasted time definitely this man would have left because he had already purchased the ticket for several countries. Is it not a matter where we could be proud of our CBI agency? They acted and arrested him immediately. Our courts after seeing the Case Diary rejected his bail application. They had given him to police custody. Now, he is in judicial custody. They have asked for his extradition and we are waiting for the disposal of our case. Nobody can say that we have suppressed or covered anybody or we have not taken action. We are taking action but I have been only requesting not with any other motive to have some patience. What-

ever, you have stated is going to help the investigation. The Home Department officers are there to take note of your points fully.

Sir, as I stated earlier clean administration does not come by talk only. We are going to have it by action. If we are going to cover anybody definitely there will be opportunity for you. You can highlight it but let us not make it a political issue because, as you know, today the image of our banking system is involved and that is why we should be careful. We have to do business also. You have given me so many points to be looked into and definitely I have taken note of them. I don't say our hon. Members are irresponsible. That is why I said in the very beginning that they are fully concerned with that and national interest is involved. We should not project our image in this way. We are having a good banking system and we should see to it that our banking system is not shaken. That is the only request I am making.

13.48 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need to provide drinking water in villages of Vidisha Parliamentary Constituency and to declare Vidisha, Raison and Schore districts as drought-affected districts.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, there is an acute problem of drinking water in hundreds of villages of Vidisha, Gyaspur, Nateran, Sanchi, Begumganj, Udaipura and Budhni Development Blocks of Vidisha Parliamentary Constituency.

13.49 hrs.

[**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE** *in Chair*]

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

The water level of the wells has gone down there due to scanty rains during the previous year, water level of the rivers is also going down sharply. The Central Government as well as the Madhya Pradesh Government is, therefore, requested to take steps on war footing to explore new resources of drinking water for all the problem villages of Vidisha, Raisen and Sehore districts and to instal hand-pumps in the hilly areas with the help of deep-boring machines. The above-mentioned three districts should be declared as drought-affected areas.

In Gulabganj, Pathari, Gyaspur, Udaipur, Begumganj, Gairatganj, Salamatpur, Devari, Chhipaner, Kasbatal, etc. the sanctioned water supply schemes should be properly implemented so as to provide drinking water facility to the villages urgently.

[English]

- (ii) Need to Construct of houses for workers employed by Public sector undertakings and collieries in and around Ramagundam

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY (Peddapalli): In and around Ramagundam public sector undertakings there is a Super Thermal Power Station at Ramagundam. The Fertilizer Corporation of India, a Cement Factory and Coal Mines are situated in Gedavarikhani which is not very far from Ramagundam. Manda Marri, Ramakrishnapuram and Bellampalli, all of which are a part of Singareni, Collieries, are located very nearby. About 50,000 persons are working in these undertakings.

Since this entire belt happens to be a very backward area. These 50,000 and odd workers have no proper accommodation. It is a grave problem which they are facing now. So far, no steps have been taken by any undertaking to provide quarters for their staff.

Hence, I request the Government of India to take up construction of houses on a massive scale, so that it can serve the needs of the workers of all the establishments situated in the area.

[Translation]

- (iii) Reported abolition of Freight equalisation scheme with respect to Iron and Steel and need to withdraw the order or compensate the state of Kerala

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): There are press reports that the Central Government has decided to abolish the freight equalisation scheme with respect to iron and steel. This decision will adversely affect a State like Kerala. It is estimated that when the freight equalisation scheme is withdrawn, the steel that is brought to Kerala with cost between Rs 700 and Rs. 800 more than the present price. This will very badly hit the industries in Kerala.

The Government of Kerala has expressed its concern over it to the Central Government. I would request the Government that either the Government should drop the decision to abolish the scheme or compensate the loss to the State in some other way.

- (iv) Need to review the support price of opium to help opium-growers

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT. (Chitorgarh): Under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the problem of opium-growers of the country. Opium is exported and used in life-saving drugs but the condition of the opium-growers is quite deplorable. The maximum number of these growers are in Kota and Chitorgarh districts of Rajasthan and Ratlam and Mandsaur districts of Madhya Pradesh. These farmers cultivate this delicate crop of opium with great difficulty. A little