

12.41 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to complete work for increasing the capacity of telephone exchanges in Gondia, Bhandara and Tumsar in Maharashtra

SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI (Bhandara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gondia, Bhandara and Tumsar are important cities in the Bhandara district of Maharashtra. Due to the lesser capacity of Telephone exchanges in Bhandara and Tumsar, there is a long waiting list for telephone connections since 1981. Similarly, there has been a demand for a long time for providing STD facility in Gondia, Bhandara and Tumsar Telephone Exchanges. A line from Nagpur has been laid but some work is yet to be done. Regarding augmentation of the capacity of the Bhandara and Tumsar Exchanges and providing STD facility in Gondia, Bhandara and Tumsar Exchanges, it was earlier stated that this work would be completed by December, 1984 but so far this work has not been completed.

12.42 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This is resulting in a lot of inconvenience to the telephone subscribers. I, therefore, urge Government to give relief to the people of these areas by getting the aforesaid work done at an early date.

- (ii) Need to develop tourist Centres at historical places in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many ancient places of cultural and historical importance near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, e.g., Vidisha, Sanchi, Udaigarh, Udaipur, Bhojpur and Bheegbetika, which can be developed as tourist centres.

Therefore, for the proper development of these places, the Central and State Governments should draw up an integrated development programme under which the protection of buildings of archaeological importance, the development of necessary facilities for the tourists, the provision of transport facilities to tourists through national highways and the construction of lodges in Vidisha and Sanchi are primarily to be implemented.

Sanchi is a tourist centre of international importance. The late Jawaharlal Nehru was also interested in its development. There is need to construct an airstrip for which an assurance has already been given by our young Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Keeping in view the increasing number of tourists to Sanchi, a tourist bus and a tourist guide should also be provided. I, therefore, request the Union Minister of Tourism that early steps be taken for the development of the aforesaid places in my constituency and for providing necessary facilities to the tourists there.

[English]

- (iii) Need to resume facilities formerly available in Passport Liaison Office in Trivandrum

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : In Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala, there is no passport office. Thousands of people from Kerala are working in Gulf countries. They perform their journey from Trivandrum. There are about 16 international flights operating from Trivandrum. In spite of all these facts, it is unfortunate that the Government have not conceded the genuine demand of the people to establish a passport office at Trivandrum.

The people of the area were demanding for a long time that a passport office should be opened at Trivandrum. At last, even though the demand for a fullfledged passport office has not been fulfilled, a liaison office has been started at Trivandrum about two years back.