

please sit down, Mr. Choubey, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, we abide by your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already told him that the House was unanimous on this point and I appreciated this. I just said two minutes back that there was no dissecnsion on this. It was absolutely made clear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Rao Birendra Singh to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, you do nothing when they break the rules. You cannot chastise them. You cannot make them apologise. You cannot make them to withdraw their remarks. But be have been complying with the rules.

MR. SPEAKER : I have done more than that, Mr. Amal Datta. Can't you understand that ? Can't you understand English ? Ask Prof. Dandavate what I have said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, you have put the record straight. I am satisfied about that, After that, why should he have the licence to brandish the Opposition like this ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of any licence. If he had listened to what I had said, he would not have said that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Rao Birendra Singh to make a statement.

12.13 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : DECISION TO PERMIT ROLLER FLOUR MILLS TO BUY WHEAT IN THE OPEN MARKET

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Hon'ble Members are aware that the availability of wheat in the open market is very good, and there is likely to be further plentiful supply during the forthcoming harvest. Hitherto, the roller flour mills were not allowed to purchase wheat in the open market, but were supplied only through the Food Corporation of India. Government feel that it is no longer necessary to keep out the roller flour mills from the market. With a view to increase supply of wheat products to consumers, and help the mills to fully utilise their capacity as also to provide the farmers with alternative avenues for the disposal of their wheat surplus at competitive price, it has been decided to permit the roller flour mills to purchase wheat directly in the open market upto their requirement, with immediate effect. This will be in addition to the existing facility of obtaining stocks from Food Corporation of India. This permission to purchase in the open market will be subject to the condition that the price offered will not be less than the minimum support price announced by the Government. Stock limits for wheat imposed on traders have already been removed earlier, and there is no restriction on its movement throughout the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good. Now, we go to the next item—Matters under Rule 377. Mr. Madan Pandey.

12.13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

[Translation]

- (i) Need to revive Malaria Eradication Programme to check the increasing mosquito menace in U.P. and other places

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Malaria, filaria, encephalitis and several

other diseases are spreading due to mosquito menace in almost all the States of the country and particularly in the main cities of the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh, like Gorakhpur, and have become a health hazard there. The malaria eradication programme has been abandoned for long. There is an acute shortage of spraying machines and insecticides. In the first instance, the insecticides are not available and those which are available have become outdated or the mosquitoes have gained immunity against insecticides, so that spraying of insecticides or fumigation has prove ineffective. It has resulted in mosquito menace in all parts of India and people are suffering from malaria fever. In such circumstances, if the Central Government do not revive the malaria eradication programme and instruct the States to improve the drainage system, the above disease would spread in an epidemic form.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to pay immediate attention to this matter.

(ii) Need to solve the problem of shortage of drinking water in Bihar

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir several States of the country and particularly Bihar have been affected by drought this year due to failure of rains. This may lead to damage to crops on a large scale and acute shortage of drinking water and fodder for cattle in the remote rural areas. There is an urgent need to implement the long and short term drinking water supply schemes on war footing in the rural areas of Bihar. The Central Government should give instructions to the State Government in this respect. The drinking water supply schemes are lying incomplete in small cities and villages since 1967. The Central Government have also spent a considerable amount on these schemes but the rural people have not been benefited. If the Central Government pay attention to this problem, drinking water which is the minimum need of our life, can be made available to the rural people at low cost.

(iii) Need to provide reservation and other facilities to Muslim sweepers in U.P. similar to those being given to the Hindu sweepers

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD (Bansgaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the need of providing special facilities and reservation to lakhs of muslim sweepers settled in Uttar Pradesh. Their main occupation is to clear filthy gutters and urine and faeces from the lavatories. They are the most exploited and downtrodden section of the society. For centuries they have been earning their livelihood by pursuing this occupation but no special facilities or reservation is available to them whereas the Hindu sweepers engaged in this occupation are enjoying the benefits of special facilities and reservation in education, employment and in politics.

So, I would urge the Central Government, through you, that the Muslim sweepers should also be provided with the special facilities and reservation at par with the Hindu sweepers so that their children may make a place for themselves in the society.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to take up development work around Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar which are the places of pilgrimage and tourist attraction in Orissa

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar along with Chilka Lake have been attracting a large number of tourists for years. Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar are places not only of tourist attraction, but are also places of pilgrimage. Many foreigners and Indian nationals visit these places to enjoy the aesthetic and artistic construction of temples and manifestations of Oriya architecture from ancient times. The sea and its surroundings, the beautiful beaches of Puri and Konark are a special attraction to international tourists. Chilka lake which is frequented by various types of birds has unique tourist potential.

But the infrastructural development of this area is inadequate. A marine drive