

"That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) Of Clause (1) of the Statute 14 of the Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six members from among themselves to serve as members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University for a term of three years, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes. The members so elected shall not be the employees of the Aligarh Muslim University."

The motion was adopted.

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CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT)
BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Shri A.K. Panja): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962."

The motion was adopted.

**SHRI A.K. PANJA: I introduced Bill.

12.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) **Need to enact law banning sacrifice of animals and birds.**

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): The report that a girl was sacrificed by a priest in a temple at Thane should shock our conscience and expose the amount of superstition we have to drive out, not only in remote rural areas but even in such highly civilized areas as Bombay Metropolis. While we must expect the Government not to spare the culprit, concerted move to stop sacrifices in places of religious worship even of animals and birds must be initiated. In some States like Kerala, such temple sacrifices stand completely banned. Why should there not be a model law on this, for circulation among the States? Once the very idea of sacrifice is termed as illegal inviting stringent punishment, there would be less chance for superstitions regarding alleged benefit from human sacrifices to thrive. Police should also be asked to keep a watch on animists and *tantriks* who are known to indulge in such activities.

[Translation]

(ii) **Need to take steps to improve medical facilities in the rural areas.**

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377:-

Medical facilities available in the rural areas far away from big cities are meagre

[Sh. Shantidhariwal]

and insufficient. In spite of the efforts made, the Primary health centres and sub-health centres have failed in making available sufficient medical facilities. Even if sub-health centre or Ayurvedic hospitals have been opened in remote villages, they are without buildings and if buildings are there, then medicines are not available and if medicines are available, then nurses, Compounders or Doctors are not there.

Despite their posting, Nurses, Doctors and Compounders are not ready to go to villages and work there. Higher authorities do not take rural health centres seriously. They hesitate to supply medicines. They consider these centres as an instrument of achieving the targets in respect of family planning allotted to each district. Medical facilities are not being made available as a result of the faulty Government Policy. The Government should formulate a comprehensive programme on priority basis and should make provisions for sufficient funds for medicines and buildings in annual plans to implement this programme. Medical services should be declared as essential services and provisions should be made for rigorous punishment for negligence. In order to implement this programme the concerned State Government should also be provided with sufficient financial assistance.

12.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

- (iii) **Need to provide funds to Madhya Pradesh Government to meet water scarcity by making use of deep drilling machines and rigs.**

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I furnish the following information under Rule 377.

Due to continuous drought for the last three years in almost all the districts, particularly Bhind and Datia districts in Gwalior and Chambal divisions in Madhya Pradesh, the ground water level has gone down considerably and water level in the wells has also gone down and at certain places the wells have become dry. This situation may lead to a serious drinking water crisis during the ensuing summer season. Therefore, I request the Government of India to direct the State Government to solve this problem by deepening the wells before it takes a grave turn. For this purpose drilling machines, rigs and necessary funds should be provided to the State Government.

- (iv) **Demand for an express train between Bina and Varanasi via Sagar and Katni.**

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I raise the following matter under Rule 377:

There has been a constant demand for introducing an Express Train between Allahabad and Varanasi via Bina, Sagar, Damoh and Katni. Many famous centres of Pilgrimage like Bandakpur, Chitrakut, Maher and Allahabad which are frequently visited by people for religious and business purposes are situated along this route. As there is no direct Express Train from Allahabad to these important places, the people have to face a lot of inconvenience in getting seats even after changing trains at two junctions (Bina and Katni) with great difficulty. In spite of the repeated requests made to the Railways to fulfil this demand, the Railway authorities have not paid any attention towards it as a result of which the citizens and businessmen of these areas have launched an agitation for stopping trains, staging *dharnas* and observing *bands*. I would, therefore, like to request that these towns should be linked with Bombay, Ahmedabad, Ujjain, Indore, Howrah, etc. through