

[Prof. Savithri Lakshmanan]

provided as immediate relief to the sufferers. Free rations have been supplied, *ex-gratia* payments have been given to the badly affected persons.

The Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 31 crores, allocated in the current Kerala Budget is not sufficient to meet the whole demand. An amount of Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 crores is urgently required by the Kerala Government to meet their demands.

I would urge upon the Government of India to constitute an independent authority to assess the total damages and grant the aid as Central assistance immediately to Kerala Government.

(iv) **Need to declare Kota, Rajasthan as a 'B' grade city**

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the following matter under Rule 377.

Despite all endeavours, the industrial capital of Rajasthan, Kota has not been declared as a 'B' grade city, although many cities which have a lesser population than that of Kota have been granted that status. Kota city is fully eligible for that status, as per the criteria laid down by the Union Government. Besides it, the population of Kota city during the last ten years has increased more than any other city of the state. On the basis of population also Kota is eligible for granting 'B' grade city status. Moreover, important industrial units and scientific institutions, including an Atomic Power Project, Railway Wagon workshop a heavy water plant and NTPC power station, are located there. Therefore, the Government should declare Kota, as a 'B' grade city, without any delay.

(v) **Need to re-introduce air service from Surat to Bhavnagar—Delhi etc.**

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw

the attention of the House to the following matter, under Rule 377.

"For the past many years, the Vayudoot service on the Bombay-Surat-Daman and Bhavnagar route was functioning quite smoothly and the airline used to earn a sizable profit also. Lakhs of people belonging to Saurashtra are settled in Surat and thousands of people, involved in diamond business, regularly go to Bhavnagar from Surat. There was also a demand to increase the frequency of this service from thrice a week to a daily service. However, two-and a half months back, Vayudoot suspended this service without even informing the public.

Similarly, about eight months back, a regular air service from Surat to Delhi via Udaipur was also introduced. Lakhs of businessmen and other employees from North India are settled in Surat and they regularly visit Delhi. This was the reason which prompted the introduction of this service. People from all walks of life praised the introduction of this service and Vayudoot was earning a fat revenue from this service, but about two and a half months back, even this service was suspended.

In terms of population and industries, Surat is the most prominent and important city of Gujarat. It has a population of more than twenty lakhs and the city is famous for its diamond industry, artsilk cloth and Zari (embroidery) work. Therefore, it is very much important and necessary to have air services between Surat and Bhavnagar and Surat and Delhi. Not only this, the Surat (Magdala) airport should be expanded and developed as a national level airport.

Therefore, I request the Government to conduct an inquiry to find out the people responsible for the suspension of the air services on the Surat-Delhi and Surat-Bhavnagar routes, the closure of the Magdala airport and the shifting and transfer of all machinery and staff to Jamnagar and

immediate steps should be taken to re-introduce air service on the two routes from Magdala airport.

by the Government towards the farming community. I made it clear. There is no question of my stand to be changed because...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Devegowdaji, please hear me.

[*English*]

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think Shri Devegowda is sitting there. I am not able to see him. Devegowdaji, may I please request you to take your seat.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: As a farmer, as a tiller, I am watching how the Government is behaving towards the farming community. Even though all sections of the House, including ruling party Members are pleading to the Agriculture Minister, he does not want to respect the feelings of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point and that has been noted also. If you have carefully heard what the Agriculture Minister was saying, you would have noticed that there are some signs of hope in what he has stated. May I request you to take your seat. This is Speaker's request to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Gowdaji, you are speaking from the well of the House.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hasan): Sir, I have got the highest regard and respect to the Chair. I know the rulings given by several Speakers. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: That is why I have taken the extreme stand of sitting here in dharna. This is not going to hamper the proceedings of the House.

A Member sitting in the well of the House is not going to hamper the proceedings of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Gowdaji, you should hear what I am saying. I know that your feelings are very strong and you have made your point. You made your feelings known to the Government by taking course to all that you could have done. I think that in difference to the dignity, of the House, may I request you to please take your seat.

MR. SPEAKER: But we do not want that.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: May I make a small submission?

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I am sitting here knowing that point. I do not want to show any disrespect to the Chair. But my protest is against the attitude of the Government. I am protesting against the stand taken by the Government. I am sorry but I am going to sit in dharna for the whole day.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please Gowdaji...

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: Though I am a new entrant to this House, I have got an experience of nearly twenty nine years in the Karnataka Assembly.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: My protest is only against the stand taken

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, we know that.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I never used an unparliamentary word in my political career which was made to be expunged from the proceedings. In my political career I never misbehaved or made an ugly scene. But today the community which I am going to represent—that is not the question of Karnataka farmers alone, but it is the entire farming community. They are in such an awkward position because of the price hike. The Government is not coming forward to give relief. On account of my feelings to the farming community only, I took the extreme stand of sitting in the well. It is not the question of bringing any discredit, disregard or disrespect either to the Chair or to this august House. I am going to respect the directions given by the Chair. But the Government is not understanding the real problem of the farmers and they should come out categorically with details of what type of relief they are going to give. With these words I am prepared to go back to my seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

*At this stage, Shri H. D. Devegowda went back to his seat*

13.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—  
*Contd.*

(vi) **Need to connect Hazaribagh by rail**

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hazaribagh (Bihar State), which apart from being the district headquarters, is also the headquarters of the North Chhota Nagpur Division. However, it has not been connected with a railway line so far. Survey work from Giridih to Hazaribagh and Hazaribagh to Ranchi has already

been conducted in this regard. Forest and Mineral resources abound in Hazaribagh and both the Union and State Governments are earning millions of rupees from there. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Railway to make an announcement regarding connecting Hazaribagh by rail.

(vii) **Need to make available necessary equipment for upgradation of Aurangabad Telephone Exchange**

[*English*]

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Aurangabad in the last two decades has grown into one of the leading industrial as well as tourist bases of our country. Today the population of the city is over 6 lakhs, with over 1000 industrial units of various sizes.

The basic ingredient of development of city is its communication network. As of date Aurangabad, including its satellite areas has capacity of approximately 10,000 telephone lines. Of these 8,000 have been connected. Despite the recent sanction of 200 lines to Chikhalthana and other 500 lines to Waluj exchanges, there are over 13,000 requests on the waiting list or telephone connections.

Even more than waiting is the apathy due to non-availability of the necessary upgradation equipment for Aurangabad Exchange for which the building is ready. This, in fact, has led to slowing down of progress of development of this great city.

It is, thus, very essential that the requisite equipment for upgradation of Aurangabad Telephone Exchange be made available expeditiously. Also interdialing tandem be provided at Aurangabad connecting Waluj, Chikhalthana and Paithan with Aurangabad.