

explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1989.

12.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Demand for directions and financial assistance to Bihar Government to launch scheme to meet acute drinking water scarcity in Purnea**

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking in this House on the shortage of drinking water in my constituency i.e. Purnea (Bihar).

Recently I had an extensive visit of the aforesaid area. There is still a great shortage of drinking water in the entire region and it is likely to deteriorate further during the summer season. Situation is not being improved in spite of our continuous apprising of the situation to the State Government.

Purnea region has not been covered under the cluster programme of tubewells initiated by the World Bank whereas it would have been more appropriate to cover this region under the said project, in view of the gravity of the situation.

Wherever there are old hand-pumps in the rural areas, the funds meant for their repairs are not being utilised properly by the Local Public Health Department.

It is necessary that the supply of drinking water in the rural areas having the scarcity of water should be managed at the war level before the onset of the next summer season.

In this connection, I would like to request the Central Government to issue proper directives to the State Government in

this regard and also to grant more financial assistance if necessary.

[*English*]

- (ii) **Demand for supply of more power to Orissa from the Farakka and the Chhuka Hydel Projects**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): The State of Orissa is reeling under severe power shortage for last about a decade and has recorded to statutory and other restrictions for the last six years. During the current water year, assuming the normal generation of Hydel Power and purchasing power from Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board, NALCO etc. the power availability is estimated to be 543 MW against unrestricted requirement of 1000 MW.

To meet the shortage, the State Government have imposed statutory power cut of 75% on heavy and power intensive industries, 50% on large Industries and 30% on State owned undertakings, along with the peak load restriction from 6.00 P.M. to 10 P.M. on all industries. There is therefore no scope to have further power cut on Industrial sector.

To save the State 15% unallocated power from Centrally owned projects located at Farrakka and Chhuka in the Eastern region, which would be supplied to the State of Orissa, considering that thereby highest deficit power shortage there when compared to all the States located in Eastern region, else, the State will have to face 40% power shortage for several years to come even after purchasing power from NALCO, Madhya Pradesh and various constituents of FREB at a much higher cost than the selling rate of the power by the Orissa State Electricity Board.

I would therefore request the Energy Ministry to come to the rescue of the Orissa State, for supply of more un-allocated power from Farakka and Chhuka Hydel projects with immediate effect, like Kerala and Kar-

[Sh. Chintamani Jena]

nataka States which have been allotted unallocated quota at the disposal of the Centre.

(iii) Demand for financial assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for relief to the families of the victims of the Vadodara hooch tragedy

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda): I beg to draw the attention of the House to the incident in which 129 persons lost their lives. This is the highest hooch tragedy in Gujarat which took place at midnight on 4th March, 1989 at Vadodara, Gujarat.

As on 6th March, 284 persons had been admitted to hospitals out of which 127 had died, 95 had been discharged and the rest were undergoing treatment. Most of those affected persons are Scheduled Caste employees of Vadodara Municipal Corporation or resetable vendors.

The tragedy took where unrest and riots have been taking place due to boot-legging gangs. In spite of strict prohibition policy in the State, such incidents have taken place, repeatedly, taking lives of hundreds of men and women over the years. The Finance Commission has suggested that the drug law in the State should be reviewed.

Financial assistance given to the families of victims is a drop in the ocean. I, therefore, humbly request for sanction of sufficient funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the families of victims.

I also request that one prohibition policy be framed for the entire country.

(iv) Demand for improvement of all categories of roads in the country in order to obviate the rising number of road accidents

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): I want to draw Government's

attention to road accidents that take place in view of the growing density of the traffic on National Highways, State Highways, as well as on rural roads. Owing to the increase in the number of heavy vehicles the present dimensions of National Highways and other Roads are not adequate leading to many road accidents.

To safeguard the life of travelling public, it is requested that all the categories of roads in our country should be improved indimensions.

(v) Demand for putting Jammu and Kashmir State at par with North-Eastern State and Himachal Pradesh in the matter of financial allocation from the centre

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): The financial allocations to J&K Government from the Centre have not only been meagre, but the very ratio of loans and grants is unfavourable to the State.

The Central Government has not so far considered this matter seriously. While the North Eastern State and Himachal Pradesh receive the funds in the proportion of 90% as grant and 10% as loan, the J&K State receives it in the ratio of 70% as loan and 30% as grant.

This matter has become a point public debate and the people of J&K State ask as to why Himachal Pradesh, which is in many ways advanced as compared to J&K State, should receive 90% of funds as grant, while J&K State has continued to groan under a great burden of loans.

This formula of Central funding has adversely affected the economy of J&K State, as a sizeable portion of funds is adjusted by the Centre by way of principal amount and interest from the Annual Plan allocations. The result has been that the State Government is left with nothing more than the wage bill and there is no money to finance development.

No wonder, therefore, that the State