

[Translation]

- (iv) Need for provision adequate funds for early completion of Tanda Thermal Power Project and to provide employment to affected families.

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Under Rule 377, I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

A 440-megawatt Thermal Power Project is under construction in Tanda Tehsil under Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency in the Faizabad District of Uttar Pradesh and one unit of it was scheduled to be commissioned in 1982, but for some reasons this unit could not be commissioned as scheduled.

As the time of the laying of the foundation-stone of this project, the Hon. Minister concerned in the presence of the then Prime Minister the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had announced that one of its units would be commissioned in 1984, but that period has expired. It is learnt from certain quarters that the amount allocated for the Tanda Thermal Project is being slashed and that amount is being diverted to some other work due to which the entire work on this project is likely to come to a stop. Besides the sanctioned project estimates are escalating to almost twiced.

There is widespread resentment among the local people over the cut effected in the amount allocated. There is imperative need to complete the work of this project in public interest. I, therefore strongly plead that no cut should be effected in the amount sanctioned for the Tanda Thermal Project in the Faizabad District of Uttar Pradesh and the work on this project should be completed very soon so that the generation of power starts there and our State is benefited thereby. I also demand that members of those farmer families who have been affected by the project and also the local unemployed persons should be given employment on top priority basis in order to remove the resentment among them.

[English]

- (v) Need to ban political parties practising Communalism and narrow parochialism.

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI (Ratnagiri) : The reactionary and extremist forces, Working in various parts of our country, have been actively leading the country to the path of destabilization. This is a threat to the unit and integrity of our country. If these reactionary and extremist forces are not checked in time, it will hamper the progress of our country in developmental activities.

Ours is a secular democracy. Secularism means that the State has no involvement with any religion. The assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi has exposed the inherent danger of allowing religion and politics to be mixed up. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all persons. At the same time, it empowers the State to make any law regulating and restricting any economic, financial, political or social activities which may be associated with religious practices. Taking lessons from what a heavy price our country has paid on account of communal and linguistic factions so far, it is high time that the Government of India evolves a permanent solution to this problem by banning all political parties practising communalism and narrow parochialism.

[Translation]

- (vi) Need to take immediate steps to prevent the impending closure of 'Samachar Bharati' and 'Hindustan Samachar'

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are clear indications that 'Samachar Bharati' and 'Hindustan Samachar' the two Language news agencies will be closed down. Both these agencies supply news in Hindi and undoubtedly the economic condition of both these agencies is very pitiable. If these two news agencies are closed down, then no language news agency will ever come into existence in the country. It is a well known fact that such news

[**Shri Balkavi Bairagi**]

agencies are the fundamental base for journalism.

The Madhya Pradesh Government and the Haryana Government have made capital investment in one of these two news agencies i.e. 'Samachar Bharati' Hindustan Samachar is a cooperative undertaking; in fact both these news agencies should be merged into one integrated news agency. It is a just demand that the employees of both these news agencies should be absorbed in the integrated news agency and Government should give assistance to this integrated news agency.

It is a matter of surprise and concern that no initiative has been taken by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in this regard so far. It is not proper to leave such news agencies on the mercy of newspapers. Why will the owners of newspapers invest in such news agencies? The Central Government should immediately come forward to build an infrastructure for Hindi news agencies in the manner they do in other fields. The matter must have been brought by now to the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Union Information Minister. Closure of these two news agencies will directly hit Hindi journalism. It is the obligation of Government to keep these withering news agencies alive and healthy. Otherwise Hindi journalism will be relegated merely to a position of translation service.

I urge Government to intervene and take immediate action in the matter.

[*English*]

**(vii) Need to set up a Separate Central department for Spiritual Affairs**

**SHRI KAMAL NATH** (Chhindwara): I rise to mention a matter that involves preservation of India's most important heritage which we all would agree, is the spiritual heritage. The sadhus and spiritualists today may appear to be just saffron-clad mendi-

cants but we should not forget that it is their ancestors who formulated the Indian philosophical system, who gave to the world not only the Vedas and the Upanishads, but also the first lessons in algebra and the first concept of Zero.

Today, there are thousands who visit India in search of the spiritual secrets of life, or to learn Yoga and the Indian system of meditation. The foreign exchange earning under this head should be nothing less than Rs. 20 crore annually.

The policy of our government is secular but religion and spiritualism are two different things. It is the task of the society in general, and the government in particular, to safeguard India's spiritual heritage. Genuine spiritual institutions and the individuals practising in this sphere should be encouraged and this calls for the formulation of an authentic government policy towards spiritualists. Therefore, there should be a separate department for spiritual affairs in the Union Ministry of Education or Culture. We should not feel hesitant to do that because India is better known abroad for its spiritualism than its material success. It is only through a consistent Government policy enforced through a separate Government Department that the legacy of India's ancient culture can be preserved.

**(viii) Need to increase the railway facilities in the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI S.M. BHATTAM** (Visakhapatnam): It is rather surprising that the bi-weekly through carriage to Waltair (via) the coastal towns by Grand Trunk Express has been withdrawn. The Waltair compartment (half three-tier sleeper and the other half first class) which was being attached to Daskhin and Link Express was also withdrawn.

To meet some of the demands for railway accommodation of the people belonging to the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, the following measures