

Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads (Temporary Supersession) Second Amendment Act, 1990

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAT SWAMY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads (Temporary Supersession) Second Amendment Act, 1990 (President Act No. 5 of 1990) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 1990 under subsection (3) of section 3 of the Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-308/91]

13.31 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need to modernise Matunga Telephone Exchange, Bombay

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay-North Central): Sir, The telephone subscribers of 48-Matunga Exchange MTNL at Bombay are greatly agitated over constant delayed dial tone incoming and outgoing call not materialising over a period of last several months.

The 48 Ponta Conta Exchange was commissioned in 1972 and has about 5028 working lines. The commissioning of two Electronic Exchanges at Sim and the scrapping of the old 47-Strowger Exchange in May, 1990 proved to be disastrous for the 48-Exchange subscribers. About 2,000 lines of the subscribers of 47-Exchange were transferred to the 48-Exchange on 1st May, 1990. New connections were also given overloading the Exchange. Most of the present problems of 48-Exchange are due to this.

I urge upon the Government to modernise 48-Exchange at Matunga, Bombay immediately and provide RLU (Remote Line Unit) pending such modernisation by connecting them to 437 and/or 414-Exchange temporarily.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the Harijans killed in Unnao District of Uttar Pradesh on 29th July

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If whenever you want to speak, you will speak. Then how the business in the House will be conducted.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do as you wish. This is Parliament.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given a notice for it.

MR. SPEAKER: When the Notice is admitted, we may discuss it.

- (ii) Need for proper maintenance of N.H. 47 between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): The Tamil Nadu Section of the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway, N.H. 47, is in a very bad condition. It needs immediate maintenance and improvement. It is one of the busiest roads in the country and had once earned the reputation of the longest cement road in India. The recent monsoon rains badly damaged the road. The side walls along the Kuzhithurai river bridge have also collapsed. There are pits and cracks in the road and thus movements of passenger and vehicular traffic has become difficult. There are frequent occurrences of traffic accidents.

[Sh. N. Dennis]

So, I urge upon the Government to keep the road in traffic worthy condition by undertaking maintenance at the earliest.

Madhya Pradesh
(iii) Need to rehabilitate people displaced on account of Barangi Irrigation Project in M.P.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 20 years have passed since a multi-purpose "Barangi" Irrigation Project in Madhya Pradesh had been set up. The affected people of the submerged areas of Mandla and Siwani Districts have not been rehabilitated even after so many years. Neither the supply of electricity nor the facility of transportation has been provided. There is no proper arrangement of schools for the children. It was announced again by the Administration that 35 per cent amount would be released to the owners of the submerged land. But this amount has not been paid to them so far. Thus, the Government is playing with the lives of those people. By acquiring their land, they have been rendered landless as well as homeless.

I urge upon the Government that an amount of 35 per cent should immediately be paid to the displaced persons to ensure their all round development and rehabilitation.

13.35 hrs. [SHRI SHARAD DIGHE
in the Chair]

(iv) Need to evolve a Flood Control and Water Management Scheme in Mahananda sub-basin in North-Eastern Bihar

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, while the Kosi sub-basin and Teesta sub-basin, which, both form part of the Ganga basin, have received due attention from the Central Government, the Mahanan-

da sub-basin lying between them has received practically no attention from the point of view of Water Management or flood control.

The Ganga Basin Flood Control Commission has prepared a comprehensive plan for the Mahananda sub-basin and even worked out schemes under the plan but so far no scheme appears to have been taken up in a planned manner so that a phased and time-bound programme for the implementation of the plan may be evolved. Every year the recurring cycle of floods and erosion continued to take their toll in life and property.

The whole of North-East Bihar lies in the Mahananda basin and no economic development is possible without flood control and water resources management in the region. Some of the tributaries of Mahananda frequently change course, some continuously erode their banks. In many places the river-bed has risen above the adjoining land due to silting.

It is requested that the Mahananda plan be finalised with the approval of the Planning Commission, the priorities *inter se* among the schemes therewith should be determined and Central Government should underwrite the Plan to the extent of at least 50 per cent. A Mahananda Basin Flood Control and Development Authority should be constituted with the representation of the two Governments as well as the people of the region, in order to undertake the implementation of the plan in right earnest.

(v) Need to declare the West Coast Canal in Kerala as National Waterway

SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE (Alleppy): Sir, the entire stretch of the West Coast Canal in the Western Coast of Kerala had a pivotal role in the progress of the state's economic development. For centuries this was the cheapest mode of travel for the people of the State and for the transpor-