

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Seven minutes past fourteen of the clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377-*CONTD*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nandlal Chaudhary—not present. Shri Virldhi Chander Jain.

[*Translation*]

- (ii) **Need to provide funds for supply of water in villages falling in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme**

SHRI VIRLDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government and the State Governments made efforts to make a permanent solution to the problem of drinking water in about 1,61,722 problem villages in the country under sixth and seventh five year plans and the Central Government made allocation of a considerable amount of money under Central Accelerate Rural Water Supply Programme. But inspite of all this, there are still some remote and inaccessible desert and hill areas where the inhabitants have to travel a distance of about 10-15 km. to fetch drinking water and where water is supplied in tankers during the summer season.

There are about one thousand villages in Barmer, Jaselmer and Jodhpur districts where drinking water is yet not available. New revenue villages have been formed by grouping hamlets in these desert areas, and the Government of Rajasthan have not yet sent those schemes to the Central Government for its approval.

So I would urge upon the Central Government to take measures to provide drink-

ing water in all the old or new villages and in the hamlets so grouped with a population of more than 250 by the end of seventh five year plan. The Central Government should allocate the required funds of Rs. 200 crores under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

- (iii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Rajasthan for tubewells in drought affected areas of Rajasthan.**

SHRI SHANKARLAL (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as a result of the decision of the Central Government to the effect that financial assistance could not be provided for carrying survey and boring of tubewells since March 1988, the farmers living in backward and drought prone areas of Rajasthan have been deprived of the opportunities to make progress. The Government should give serious thought to the problem and should take the decision to provide more funds to Rajasthan by way of loans and grant-in-aid for boring tubewells, otherwise the funds provided in the past would be of no use. In this way, the schemes will remain incomplete and the farmers would be disappointed.

- (iv) **Need to start work on Koel-Karo Hydro-electric project**

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMED (Giridih): It is nine years hence that sanction was given for setting up Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Project at Chhota Nagpur in Bihar. It is estimated that 710 Megawatt power will be generated from this Project. A case of land acquisition for the project was filed in the Supreme Court but the case was kept pending in the court, even though the landowners had agreed to provide land on the intervention of the State Government. Now the court has given their judgement in favour of the Government. As the case has not been settled by the court, land acquisition proceedings should be initiated immediately. Delay in regard to the Projects of national importance is a matter of regret. While on one hand such delays esca-

late the total cost of the project, on the other hand it also deprives the country of the benefit which it could have had on the completion of the project.

I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Government to take prompt necessary action in respect of land acquisition to complete the Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Project.

[English]

- (v) **Need to construct a permanent dam along banks of river Ganga in Ganj Doondwara, Tehsil Patlail, District Etah, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Tehsil Patiali in District Etah (Uttar Pradesh) is in my Parliamentary Constituency in which village Qdar Ganj and other villages are located on both sides of River Ganga. When River Ganga is flooded during the rainy season, the villages and the crops are damaged. Unless a permanent dam is constructed along the banks of River Ganga, these villages and their crops cannot be saved from destruction. The Government of India is requested to construct a permanent dam along the river bank to save these villages.

- (vi) **Need to check the erosion by river Brahmaputra from Chapar to Chanderdinga in District Dhubri (Assam)**

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri): Continuous erosion of River Brahmaputra which has taken place from Chapar to Chanderdinga, the length of which is about 10 km. in the District of Dhubri, Assam, has posed a great threat to the life and property of the people living in the nearby areas. The erosion has already damaged and swallowed a huge area. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless and landless. Even my own village Puthimari has been on the verge of extinction as most part of it has been

washed away by River Brahmaputra. This is going on unattended to both by the Union Government as well as by the State Government for the last 20 years despite repeated demand to protect the place and the people living there.

The area in question is a thickly populated and most of the people are agriculturists by profession. The people are very poor and they have to suffer due to natural calamities like floods, droughts, erosion and other natural phenomenon in season and out of season. The people of the area, including the elected representatives of the people have been moving from pillar to post to protect the erosion-stricken people for a long time but nothing has been done so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to come forward to protect the area in question in the interest of poor people living there.

- (vii) **Need for steps to avoid delay in issuing passports in Kerala**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): There is inordinate delay in issuing passports in Kerala. While in other States, a passport is issued in two to three weeks, in Kerala it takes anything between three to six months. Because of this delay, a large number of people who get job offers in foreign countries lose them. This is causing serious discontent among the people in the State.

One of the reasons for this delay is said to be the shortage of staff in the Passport Office in Cochin. If it is true, immediate steps should be taken to appoint necessary staff in this office.

I would request the Government to realise the seriousness of this problem and take all necessary steps so that the present delay in getting a passport is obviated. Directions may be issued that passports should be issued to applicants in Kerala within two to three weeks.