

13.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### MATTERS UNDER-RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Matters under Rule 377.

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Need for solving the drinking water problem in Bundelkhand, especially in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BHISMA DEO DUBE (Banda): Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh and particularly my constituency Banda has been again affected by scanty rainfall. A meeting of Irrigation Department was held on the 6th of this month. We came to know from the figures that even if there is average rainfall this year, we would not be able to meet more than 30 to 35 percent of our irrigation needs. In the coming months, there shall not only be a problem on the irrigation front but also drinking water problem for human beings and animals. Water level is fast receding in the entire district. There will be acute drinking water problem from February onwards during the next summer. I can say with certainty that if timely steps are not taken to solve the problem, there will be loss of human life also besides loss of cattle wealth.

So I would request the Government to start preparations on a war-footing to solve the problem and settle the long standing water dispute distribution between U.P. and M.P. by the Central Water Commission. Another request in this regard is to provide drinking water to the backward district like Banda. The State Government should be allocated Rs. 10 crores separately so that hand pumps are installed in every village extensively.

- (ii) **Need to check rise in prices of the essential commodities and to ensure their supply**

[*English*]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Price rise of different essential commodities has become a matter of grave concern for the common people. All possible economic and administrative measures should be taken to ensure that prices come down to a reasonable level. It is high time that five to seven essential commodities which are of daily use of common people, should be identified and it should be ensured that in no circumstances, prices of these commodities are allowed to rise and also ensure steady supply of these commodities.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) **Need for a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): The population of Morena district in Madhya Pradesh is about 15 lakh. Besides, the district headquarter, the headquarter of Chambal division is also situated in Morena. There are a number of schools and colleges in Morena. But there is need for a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the area. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Morena city so that the children can be provided good education and the backwardness of the city and the district could be removed.

- (iv) **Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government to help the State overcome the drinking water problem there, especially in Sehore, Bhopal and Devas districts**

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): This year the rainfall has been satisfactory all over the country. But there was less than average rainfall in more than 80 per cent districts of Madhya Pradesh. The crops of paddy and soyabean have already been

[Sh. K.N. Pradhan]

damaged and there is a possibility other crops being damaged if the rains do not arrive in time. The next crop is also in danger.

Besides, there will be acute shortage of drinking water, as the ground water level has receded further. Sehore and Bhopal districts in Madhya Pradesh are the worst affected by drought. The drinking water problem in Bhopal is going to worsen further. During the last five years, the big lake was never upto to the brim. Due to scarcity of water, the lake water may get polluted.

Water has not so far been released from the Kolar Project. Today, the people of Bhopal have started realising that the problem of drinking water in Bhopal can be permanently solved by bringing water from Narmada and the Government should take immediate steps in this regard.

Arrangements should be made from now onwards for the relief work and for providing water to the districts like Devas, Bhopal and Sehore. The Central Government should also provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government in these circumstances.

- (v) **Need for sanctioning construction of the Navatha and the Khariaguti dams to ensure supply of water to Hatnoor weir on the River Tapi**

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol): Hatnoor weir on River Tapi in Maharashtra is now complete. This weir is to get water from the Navatha and Khariaguti Dams. But the construction of these projects has not started yet. These projects are major irrigation projects. The farmers of Khandva District of Madhya Pradesh and those from Amravati, Jalgaon Districts of Maharashtra will be mainly benefited with the completion of these projects.

The soil of this area is very fertile. It can

produce large amount of food and other agriculture products if supported by irrigation facilities.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister for Water Resources to look into the matter and sanction the projects.

- (vi) **Need to ensure early payment of dues to the sugarcane growers**

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Guraru in Gaya District is a place which is predominantly a sugarcane growing area. On the basis of the production of sugarcane on a large scale, Government established a sugar factory there. But, during the past three years, this sugar factory has remained closed. The farmers from whom the Government had bought sugarcane had not been given the reasonable price for their produce. The sugarcane growers are much disheartened which has resulted in the fall of production of sugarcane.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that their dues are paid to them on time.

[Translation]

- (vii) **Need for measures to improve the lot of Beedi workers**

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Beedi workers of Madhya Pradesh in general and Satna district in particular are facing unprecedented difficulties. Thousands of such workers in Nagud Maiter Ramnagar, Amarpatan, Satna, Regaon, Chitrakoot, Barrwara, Vijayaraghgarh and Rampur Bagena which come under the constituency of Satna are without any means of livelihood. They are facing a situation of near starvation. The owners of the Beedi industries have discontinued the practice of granting 'Patta' for making Beedis to the Beedi workers after nationalisation of Tendu leaves trade. Despite the announcement of the minimum wages, a beedi worker on an average gets not more than Rs. 10 to 11 per day as wages. Previously, the beedi