

12.31 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

*[Translation]***(i) Need to Take Steps to Promote Tourism**

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tourism is an industry, but in our country it has not been given the attention it deserves despite the fact that there is a great potential of tourism in our country. Although India is rich in natural beauty, temples with artistic grandeur, historical buildings, gay festivals and adventurous journeys, yet its share in World Tourism amounts to merely 0.40 per cent. Except some developing countries, even our small neighbouring countries like Singapore, Hongkong, Thailand, Taiwan and Japan have surpassed India in the field of Tourism.

It is due to indifference towards this industry that we attract lesser number of tourists. We have very few travel agents, exhibitions and film shows in foreign countries. Due to lack of adequate publicity, even today the foreigners have the impression that India is a poor and backward country.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government that in order to attract foreign tourists in our country, the Information Centres in our embassies in foreign countries should function more actively and effectively.

Arrangements should be made to ensure that tourists are able to see our country in the shortest possible time in a more convenient way. For this purpose, the tourist spots should be linked with Air Service.

The tourists spots should be beautified. The Lake Jheel in Kashmir, Vivekanand

Rock in Kanya Kumari, ruins of Virawaj temple and Sunderban in Assam are losing their glamor due to lack of proper attention to them. The colourful Rajasthan, where the brave women with their valour and courage made an indelible impression on the mind of the people, has all along been a centre of attraction for tourists. The historical land of Chittorgarh, which reminds us about serene music of Meera supreme sacrifice of Padmini, Rana Pratap's unflinching love for freedom and the great sacrifice of Panna Dhai has been totally neglected. If the Government try to develop and beautify these tourist centres, a pretty good amount of foreign exchange can be earned through these centres.

*[English]***(ii) Need to Enact a Law Making Obligatory for Elected Representatives to File their Property Returns from Time to Time**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Democracy is by far the best of the political systems in the world. Ours is the largest democracy and we feel proud of it. Democracy which is of the people, for the people and by the people has to be nurtured properly. It cannot thrive much less prosper without abundant love and respect of people in general for it. But it is observed that rampant and ever — increasing corruption in different spheres together with indifferent and apathetic attitude of our bureaucracy towards the common man lead to the erosion of faith, love and respect of people in democracy. This is a dangerous trend and has got to be contained. Peoples' representatives have a significant role to play in this regard. They cannot perhaps effectively play their role unless the life they lead is simple and clean and appears to the people to be so. In this context, it ought to be obligatory on the part of all elected representatives to file from time to time their property statements.

[Sh. Sriballay Panigrahi]

Government should ensure this through suitable legislation.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Need for Regular Power Supply to Farmers of Delhi

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now-a-days, the farmers are reaping the crops and collecting them in the barn. But threshers cannot function without electricity. Last year, the farmers got round the clock supply of power due to which the grains were sold in the market before the onset of monsoon and wheat was thus protected from absorbing moisture. Threshing requires round the clock supply of power. Therefore, Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking should ensure that power supply is not disrupted during the harvesting period. If due to some reason some faults develop in the power supply system, it should be rectified immediately and electricians and helpers should be sent from the nearest complaint office for this purpose so that farmers could not sit idle. If extra hands are required for it, they should be provided by making fresh appointment, so that the crops are not damaged and farmers could bring it in their houses.

(iv) Demand for an Oil Refining in Bina-Agasaud Region of Sagar District of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bina Agasaud region in district Sagar in Madhya Pradesh is a very backward area because no big industry is located here. In order to remove the backwardness of this region, it is essential to set up the proposed oil refinery in the area. The area is suitable for it in all respects because from the security point of view, this place is centrally located and well

connected with rail heads. Apart from that, the availability of water is in abundance and rockyland and absence of forests in the area make this region very appropriate for the setting up of a refinery. There is no shortage of laboureres as well. Moreover, as no refinery is located around a radius of a pretty long distance, the proposed refinery should be set up in Bina Agasaud region. In order to ensure that this refinery is set up here, a large number of people are about to launch an agitation for this purpose. On behalf of the people, it is my serious demand that a decision to set up the proposed oil refinery in Bina Agasaud region of Sagar district should be taken at the earliest.

(v) Need to Construct a Railway Bridge at Buri Gandak in Gopalganj

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the districts of Gopalganj, West Champaran and Sewan in Bihar, have been the place of birth and the field of activity of great personalities of this country. The district of Sewan is the birth place of the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the great freedom fighter, Shri Mazhar-ul-Haq was also born here. Mahatma Gandhi started his indigo movement from Mitaha in West Champaran district and he made Gopalganj as his centre of activity. But today people are forgetting the sacrifices made by these personalities because there are no memorials of these great personalities there.

Therefore, I will request the hon. Minister of Railways to get the following action undertaken so that the new generation can follow the path shown by noble sons of the country.

(1) A railway bridge should be constructed on Buri Gandak river at Gopalganj and a new railway line should be laid to connect Gopalganj with the border district of