

the poverty line and they see no effective development measures, the people of the area are getting frustrated. I put forth a demand before Government that a sub-committee of the Central Cabinet should be set up for the development of Eastern U.P. also as has been done for the development of Jammu and Kashmir as also the North Eastern States.

**(iii) Need to Amend the Sharda Act**

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I am running the following matter :

Lakhs of farmers, agriculture workers and the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people in the country, who believe in "gona" (*Maklawa*) ceremony are in search of an opportunity say, the day of 'Akishya Tritiya' on which they arrange mass marriages of all the major and minor children of their families because of economic reasons. On the same day they perform 'Gangunali' in memory of their ancestors and feel proud of investing and welcoming all the persons of their caste or community. When the girl and boy attain the age of 18 years and 21 years respectively, they 'gona' is performed and the girl moves to her in laws house. However, some anti-social elements with revengeful attitude try to exploit and harass these poor farmers and workers under the child Marriage Act or the Sharda Act. Hence there is a need to amend, this Act immediately. Law is meant to safeguard the interests of the people and not to put them in trouble.

**(iv) Need to propagate the writings of  
Saints like Kabir and Guru  
Nanak**

**SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I am raising the following matter namely : that the communal and separatist elements are spoiling the atmosphere throughout the country. Keeping this fact in view, it has become necessary to give wide publicity to the thoughts, aims and writings of saints like Maharishi Dadhichi, Kabir, Guru-

other saints, who had risen above communalism and other low tendencies and had created an atmosphere of tolerance, harmony and goodwill in the country. It is also necessary that commemorative stamps in their memory should be issued to create an atmosphere of communal harmony throughout the country.

**(v) Need to Repair the Jawahar Bridge  
over Yamuna River at National High-  
way No. 2 near Agra**

**SHRI NIHAL SINGH JAIN (Agra) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the Jawahar Bridge on River Yamuna in Agra. It falls under the National Highway No. 2 from Delhi to Calcutta and the State Highway from Agra to Meerut. It is the only bridge which caters to the entire traffic needs on these Highways and thousands of vehicles pass over this bridge daily. In addition it is the only bridge which handles the entire traffic of the trans-yamuna areas of Agra where, industrialization has taken place and the population has increased commensely.

After completion, this bridge was inaugurated by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1969, but now it is in a very deplorable condition. For example, the upper part of the foundation pillars has been badly damaged, the road is also in a dilapidated condition and the footpath slabs and railings have collapsed at many places. It is dangerous to cross this bridge. Fortunately, no bus or truck has so far fallen into the river.

It is a very serious matter. In case adequate precautionary measures are not taken in this regard, accidents may take place and if the bridge is suddenly closed the traffic problem will assume alarming proportions.

Therefore, the Union Transport Ministry is requested to take timely steps to avoid a possible chaos in the traffic