

28.4.1982 for revival of the base. But it is regrettable that the project has not been revived so far. Since the proposal for construction of a separate fishing harbour at Paradip is nearing finalisation, there is a greater need of such an exploratory fishing project now.

The revival of the project will go a long way in undertaking extensive survey of the fishing grounds in the coastal water of the State. The country earns huge amount of foreign exchange by exporting fish produced from Orissa. So, there is every justification of setting up such project at Paradip. Therefore, I request the Government of India to revive that project at Paradip without any further delay.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to make it obligatory to indicate the contents of the food items on their containers/packets

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377. I want to draw the attention of the House towards the following matter of public importance.

I want to draw the attention of the House towards an article "your food may be poisonous", published in the English daily, 'The Hindustan Times' dated 10th July, 1986.

After making a study it has been reported in the Article that more than 50% cases of ill health are due to food allergy. Food allergy usually occurs due to eating of chicken, cheese, egg, milk, curd, coffee and chocolate.

The consumption of these items affects a person immediately or after a long time. It may cause swelling on the body, running of nose, headache, bronchitis, skin diseases and cancer of various kind.

I want to urge the Government that instructions should be issued to display

clearly on the packets or tins of the food-items the chemicals and other contents used in them.

(viii) Need to provide sufficient financial assistance for early completion of Sagarmal Gopa and Veerbal branches of Indira Gandhi Canal in Rajasthan

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :—

62 percent and 97 percent of the earth work at Sagarmal Gopa and Veerbal branches respectively of Indira Gandhi Canal has been completed. 510 lakh cubic feet earth-work and lining of 10 kms. area are programmed for 1986-87. For Veerbal branch the target is 200 lakh cubic feet of earth-work and half a kilometer lining. No target has been fixed for the future work.

For the construction of Sagarmal Gopa and Gadhra road branches, the cost has been estimated to be Rs. 186.17 crores and Rs. 65.89 crores respectively. The work at Sagarmal Gopa and Veerbal branches initiated by the Government of Rajasthan is progressing very slow and the funds being provided for it are insufficient. It is necessary for the Rajasthan Government to give priority to the construction of flow canals over the lift canals. There will be no need of electricity in the said flow canal.

All the villages of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts have remained famine stricken for the last three years. This year, the earthwork can be accelerated by engaging thousands of labourers in the famine relief works. Therefore, the Central Government is requested to provide Rs. 100 crores as a special grant for the Sagarmal Gopa and Veerbal branches of the Indira Gandhi Canal so that the work on the said project can be completed on a war footing in the Seventh Five Year Plan and in this way the problem of famine

[Shri Viridhi Chander Jain]

will be solved for ever by ushering in green revolution in the most backward border areas of Barmer and Jaisalmer.

(ix) Need to provide more facilities at Satna and Maihar railway Stations in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Satna-Rewa railway line has been approved and included in the Budget also but the progress of this work is totally unsatisfactory which is causing disappointment among the people of the area.

Similarly, the non-stoppage of Ganga-Kaveri and Mahnagari Express trains at Maihar railway station causes inconvenience to lakhs of pilgrims who visit this place of religious and cultural importance with great reverence. There is no direct train for Bhopal from Satna. Therefore, if Mahanagari or any other train is diverted via Sagar, Bina, Vidisha, Bhopal and Itarsi to Bombay, thousands of people will be benefited from it.

Similarly, there is no railway station by the name of Chitrakut within Madhya Pradesh to reach this place of religious importance. If any suitable nearby railway station in Madhya Pradesh is renamed as Chitrukutdwar or Chitrakutdham that will give a great relief to the people.

The stoppage of the train from Lucknow to Manakpur at Manakpur is quite long. If it is extended from Lucknow to Katni, thousands of people will be benefited by it. There is a great need for constructing comfortable and good retiring rooms at Satna and Maihar and near Chitrakut, in Madhya Pradesh. Although a lot of work is being done at Satna and Maihar stations but the Ministry of Railways should provide more facilities to the people there.

Hon. Minister of State for Railways and the Ministry of Railways should consider these points immediately and make necessary arrangements to provide relief to the people.

13.43 hrs.

MOTION RE: GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh on the 3rd December, 1986, namely:

"That this House do consider the general economic situation in the country".

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I thank you for calling me to participate in this debate on the economic situation in the country.

The Finance Minister yesterday at the outset of this debate has given the economic scenario of the country full of optimism, based on an objective analysis of the economic situation. I share the optimism of the hon. Finance Minister. Of course, hon. Madhav Reddi who initiated the discussion from the side of the Opposition expressed his grave doubts about the economic situation which has been healthy, comfortable economic situation as referred to in his Statement by the Finance Minister. He has also expressed doubts not only he, but also later on he was joined by Shri Somnath Chatterjee in the genuineness of the figures. I simply wonder what prompts the hon. Member to entertain doubts, to entertain suspicion in these figures. The tempo of the economic growth has been maintained this year also. This economic growth has been of the order of 5% as against 3.5% earlier—during the Janta Regime. For the last six years this is continuing to be 5%. Again food stocks, food reserves as on 1.7.1986 were as high as 20 million tonnes. Inflation is at the level of 6.4%—slightly higher than the corresponding period of last year. But that has also shown a decreasing trend, a trend of decline.