

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

Eighth Report

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALO (Akola): I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

12.07hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Demand for measures to provide drinking water in the country especially in eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): I want to draw the attention of this august House and the Government to an urgent matter of public importance. The entire country, particularly eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh are facing serious drought. There is acute shortage of drinking water in the cities and the villages. People in remote villages are crying for water. The World Bank assisted the Central and State Governments in providing drinking water facilities but this is only a drop in the ocean. The number of villages where hand pumps and wells were to be installed is very few. Besides, only 2 hand pumps were provided in each of these selected villages, though there were many mohallas (*Purvas*) with large population and the distance is also more. Due to power failure the tube wells are also not working. The water in ponds and canals had dried up. The construction of drinking water tanks in the villages taken up by the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam in the Fifth and the Sixth Five Year Plans was abandoned.

Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should prepare a list of villages facing acute shortage of water and dig wells and instal hand pumps there on war footing, with the assistance of the World Bank. Besides, the construction of water tanks in villages to provide drinking water should once again be taken up in the Eighth Five Year Plan and power supply also be ensured.

[English]

- (ii) Need to shift the Headquarters of the South-Eastern Railway to Orissa.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Orissa is admittedly the heart of the South Eastern Railway. But it is unfortunate that the Headquarters of this Railway is not located inside Orissa. The demands continuously voiced by people from different walks of life on shifting the Headquarters to Orissa and also other genuine Railway problems and long felt needs are just given a deaf ear by the authorities. Recently, Orissa Legislative Assembly has also passed a resolution unanimously demanding shifting of the South Eastern Railway Headquarters to Orissa and fulfilment of long standing genuine demands and needs of the State without further delay. I would, therefore, request the Railway Minister to take note of it with all seriousness and take suitable remedial steps without loss of time.

- (iii) Need to allow Farmers Cooperatives to set up Sugar factories of the capacity of 1250 TDC

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola): Under new sugar policy declared by Central Government no sugar factory under capacity of 2500 T.C.D. can be opened. This decision is bound to be detrimental to small and marginal agriculturists, because it will not be possible for them to form agriculture cooperative factories with less than the above capacity. This will also be detrimental to growth of agro-based