

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

ful, they were mercilessly lathi-charged by the police, causing severe injuries to some.

While protesting against the wanton lathi-charge by the police, I demand statement by the Home Minister or by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting on the episode.

(v) Need to ensure smooth flow of vehicular traffic of Zoji-La on the Srinagar-Leh highway.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): Sir, the tragedy which had resulted in the deaths of over hundred people at the Zoji-La on the Srinagar-Leh highway in October last year as a result of sudden and early snowfall, appears to have been forgotten. The Border Roads Organisation, the Army authorities and the civilian agencies are supposed to work in close coordination for regular and smooth flow of traffic on the Zoji-La, but unfortunately, no coordination is seen. Lately, the Border Roads Organisation has stopped the realignment works at the Zoji-La, reportedly on the advice of the Army authorities. Sonamarg to Kargil, vehicular journey has become a two-day affair instead of the usual few hours journey. Civilian passengers and tourists travelling in buses are put to great inconvenience. The civilian traffic personnel posted for regulation of civil traffic do not take interest in smooth flow of traffic. Stocking of essential commodities for Ladakh region is in a very bad shape as not much time is left for closure of Zoji-La for the winter. If the flow of traffic is not regulated properly and in time, supply and stocking of essential items of civilians as well as the Army will be adversely affected.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to ensure proper coordination between the Army, the Border Roads Organisation and the civilian agencies for smooth flow of traffic so that stocking of essential commodities and other defence supplies to Lakakh could be made well before the closure of Zoji-La.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to direct Food Corporation of India to construct a godown in Khalilabad Tehsil of Basti district Uttar Pradesh

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Sir, I would like to give a notice under Rule 377.

In order that the farmers get remunerative price for their produce and are saved from the exploitation by middle-men, the Government for the last several years fixed the support price for their wheat production and made arrangements for its purchase. Under this policy, various departments purchase wheat from the farmers. But due to lack of proper arrangements for their storage, large quantities of wheat get rotten while lying in the open and getting wet. In the Basti district of Uttar Pradesh also, for want of proper storing facilities, large quantities of wheat purchased from the farmers get wet and are spoiled every year and at times wheat is not purchased from the farmers on the plea that there is no proper room for storing it.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to issue immediate instructions for the construction of a 50-tonne capacity godown in the Khalilabad Tehsil of Basti district by the Food Corporation of India so that the entire quantity of wheat produced by the farmers is purchased and saved from getting rotten.

[English]

(vii) Need to instal electronic equipment in the new telephone exchange at Nanded.

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN (Nanded): I am making statement under Rule 377.

Nanded District in Maharashtra is one of the fastest developing districts of the state

due to various incentives offered by the State Government and the Central Government. As such, number of industries are coming up in the area. Therefore, demand for telephone connections from the industrial houses, trade centres as well as the public has increased considerably.

The present Telephone Exchange with a capacity of 1900 lines has the MAX II Type of equipment. This equipment is presently loaded upto 96% of its capacity, and due to heavy loading and the out-dated equipment, the telephones generally remain out of order during the peak hours, or do not function properly, resulting in receiving wrong numbers, thereby putting the subscribers to great difficulty.

The Department is constructing a new building for Nanded Telephone Exchange which is likely to be completed by March, 1988, but the department proposes to instal I.C.P. Cross bar type of equipment. But as per the Annual Report for the year 1986-87 of the Department of Telecommunications, in order to improve the telephone services in the rural areas, action was taken to procure digital Electronic Exchanges for automisation of some of the district headquarters and important towns. It is learnt that the equipment has been imported and installed in some of the district headquarters. I, therefore, strongly urge the hon. Minister of Communications to consider installing Electronic Equipment in the new Building of the Telephone Exchange at Nanded, which is the Headquarters of the District, situated in the backward region of Maharashtra State.

(viii) Need to expedite clearance to the Karatia-Nagartala Basin drainage Scheme pending with Ganga Flood Control Commission.

SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

Sunderbans area in West Bengal is one of the most backward areas in the country lacking in any developmental activities or *infra structure* for any rural industries or

employment. Although nature has been bountiful to this area in the matter of flora and fauna, it is frequented by floods, cyclones and tornado at times which cause havoc in the absence of any proper drainage system in this area. The only avocation which can be gainfully pursued by the rural folk in this area is agriculture. For promotion of agriculture, it is essential to have a proper drainage system. The Karatia-Nagartala Basin Drainage Scheme in the district of 24-Parganas was drawn up after detailed investigations and surveys about 6-7 years ago and the scheme is now being processed with the Ganga Flood Control Commission. All the technical details and other points on estimates raised by the Ganga Flood Control Commission have already been attended to by the State Government from time to time. This scheme is now to be processed by the Planning Commission and ultimately approved by it as soon as forwarded by the Ganga Flood Control Commission. This scheme when executed in phases will help removing drainage congestion of nearly 215 sq. km. in P.S. Minakha, Canning and Basanti in my constituency and thereby increase additional agricultural production of 9171 m.t. of kharif paddy. I would urge the Government of India kindly to expedite clearance of this scheme and thus afford the much needed relief to the poverty stricken people of Sunderbans area.

(ix) Need to ensure to support price to the farmers for their produce damaged in the rains of May 1987.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, during May, 1987 due to unseasonal rain in Northern Region of India i.e. in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and U.P., the crops in field were destroyed and damaged. The wheat which was brought to markets for sale was also damaged. As a result of this, the farmers were put to great loss. Today the farmers have got no money to meet their day to day requirements and have not got adequate resources to lead their life. This destruction is almost there in the whole of