

is Rs. 174 crores. Since a large amount is required for revival of this unit, I want to tell the hon. Member and also the House, because the hon. Member wants to know whether the Government of India wants to take over this unit, whether the Government of India wants to nationalise this unit—I may humbly submit that the Government of India is not in favour of either taking over this unit or nationalising this unit because so far as the nationalisation question is concerned, it does not fit in the criteria that are laid down by the Government of India for nationalisation; we feel that this unit is not fit for revival. If the Government of Bihar wants to nationalise, then it is for the Government of Bihar to consider it and take whatever necessary action they propose to take or they intend taking in this matter. As I have already mentioned, if the Government of Bihar wants to nationalise or wants to revive some of the units, to the extent possible we are here to extent all support that we can to the Government of Bihar. We have already said this to the Government of Bihar. In fact, they demanded that the Government of India should nationalise, and we have made it very clear to the Government of Bihar that we are not in favour of nationalisation. We have made it clear that, if the Government of Bihar wants to nationalise, it is for them to take a decision in the matter. So, there is no question of the Government of India either taking over or nationalising this unit. If the Government of Bihar comes forward with any concrete proposals, certainly the Government of India will consider.

12.33 hrs.

STATEMENT *Re* : FREIGHT RATES FOR SALT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : Hon. Members may recall the general discussion on Railway Budget which took place in March 1985 and my reply thereto on 20th March 1985. The revised fare and freight rates have accordingly taken effect from 15-4-1985. However, some of the Hon. Members had made mention about giving some relief in the matter of freight rates for salt for human consumption. We have been giving considerable thought to

this matter. In deference to the wishes of the Hon. Members and on grounds of sentiment, I have decided to exempt salt for human consumption from the levy of the 10% supplementary charge, on consignments moving over 500 kms. I, therefore, announce that the 10% supplementary charge imposed on goods traffic with effect from 15-4-1985 will not be leviable on salt for human consumption with effect from 1-6-1985.

12.35 hrs.

ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ABOLITION) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State of Andhra Pradesh and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State of Andhra Pradesh and for matters supplemental, incidental and consequential thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I think this is a non-controversial Bill. It can be taken up immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is only the introduction stage.

12.37 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to give top priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan for irrigation projects in India

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI (Ratnagiri) :

[Shri Hussain Dalwai]

India has been blessed by very many big rivers through its length and breadth. If the water flowing in these rivers is properly channelised for irrigation purpose, our country can emerge in years to come as the biggest granary of the world. We are committed to better the lot of majority of our people, many of whom are living below the poverty line. As a democratic country having implicit faith in socialism we have to reduce the disparity in distribution of wealth. We can only achieve these goals if we concentrate our efforts in the direction of agricultural development of our country. The vast irrigation potential which is available to us, if properly planned and implemented, can convert our vast fallow and grass-growing pastures into fertile food growing fields. The Government of India should give topmost priority for undertaking a massive programme of irrigation projects in India and earmark substantial provision of funds for the same in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(ii) **Need for allocation of funds by HUDCO for rural Housing or to set up a separate Corporation for financing rural Housing Schemes**

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : As per the policy of the Andhra Pradesh State Government the A. P. State Housing Corporation is entrusted with the construction of 1,40,000 houses of which 90% are being taken up for the benefit of the rural poor.

The financial outlay for the construction of 1,40,000 houses comes to about 88 crores out of which the loan component is Rs. 45.45 crores, the balance being subsidy and beneficiary contribution.

The main objective of HUDCO is to undertake housing and urban developmental programmes. Its priority is for financing urban schemes. HUDCO earmarks only 15% out of the total lending for rural housing for weaker sections. In this connection, I would suggest as follows :

- (i) The present priority of HUDCO should be changed so as to increase it to 50% in case of rural housing as for all loans released by HUDCO, the State Government stands guarantee.
- (ii) The period of repayment in the case of rural housing is 10 years

whereas it 20 years in urban areas. This disparity should go.

- (iii) In view of massive programme undertaken in Andhra Pradesh for rural poor, HUDCO should give preference to rural housing schemes in Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) If reorientation of policies of HUDCO on the above lines is not possible, a separate independent corporation may be set up exclusively for financing rural housing schemes for weaker sections.

(iii) **Need to formulate a code of conduct and ethics for the Press**

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara) : Sir, the Press which is an important organ of Indian democracy and having a long reach over the public mind has no codified norms. Accountability is essential and for accountability a code of conduct and Ethics is extremely important. Agencies of mass communication are carriers of public discussion and information acting to learn and report facts. Newspapers, magazines and those who write for them are bound by no specific Code of Ethics.

Certainly no code of ethics can be imposed on the Press it has to evolve from within the Press itself as any imposition may lead to control of the press which would be undesirable. Without a code of ethics, long established values of journalism get devalued. A mere libel law is not enough. Therefore, what is needed is a code of ethics formulated by member bodies of the Press itself and thereafter a pledge by individual members that they would be bound to the code of Ethics. The Government should thereafter deny accreditation and its concomitant facilities to those who refuse to subscribe to it. The Press must not only function freely but also responsibly to promote and preserve the bond of mutual trust and respect between the Indian journalists and the Indian people.

(iv) **Need to expedite the Western Kosi Canal Project**

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Sir, sometime back the Central Government had reviewed the progress made in the execution of the Western Kosi canal project, keeping in view the urgent need for harnessing river Kosi for irrigation purposes in the Madhubani