

(ii) **Steps needed to provide drinking water in Purnea district of Bihar**

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking under Rule 377. The first and foremost necessity of the country is to provide drinking water to the people and my Government is also doing that. It is, however, regretted that drinking water is not being made available in a proper way. I want to refer to the situation prevailing in my area, Purnea. During these years I have been visiting villages and I have seen the miserable condition of the people with my own eyes. I have been writing to the Government of Bihar time and again but nothing is being done, though the water is available at a depth of 24' to 30' in our area. What a miserable life the people, specially Harijans are leading, nobody can imagine without seeing it.

I request the Central Government to find out from the state Government whether there is any paucity of funds and if it is so, the same may please be made good so that drinking water is provided to the people and their difficulty is removed.

[English]

(iii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for completing Kodumudiyaru Reservoir Scheme in Tirunelveli district**

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN (Tiruchendur) : Sir, the districts in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, particularly Tirunelveli district, have been gripped with severe drought leading to acute shortage of drinking water. Any chance of water availability in this area for irrigation purpose would only be a day-dream.

Sir, in my Constituency near Valliyur, Kodumudiyaru Reservoir Scheme was sanctioned in 1976 and necessary construction work had already been taken in hand for the above reservoir. An expenditure to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs had already been incurred for this reservoir scheme. But later, the said reservoir work could not be con-

tinued for the reason that the Forest Protection Act of 1980 enforced by the Central Government came in the way of completing the above work. However, it was later clarified that such works sanctioned and taken up in hand before 1980 do not attract this Act of 1980. I have also addressed to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu requesting him for the early completion of this work treating it as ongoing subject.

12.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Since the people, particularly belonging to the poor and weaker sections and landless farmers, in the area have been undergoing a lot of sufferings due to severe drought situation consecutively for three years now, the Kodumudiyaru Reservoir Scheme assumes greater importance and its immediate completion will mean an oasis for the people of that area.

I would, therefore, request the Union Government kindly arrange to issue urgently necessary clarification to the State Government and also help in releasing financial assistance for the above reservoir scheme.

[Translation]

(iv) **Demand for an ordnance factory in cantonment area of Datia district in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Defence to a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

There was an Army regiment known as "Govind Infantry" during the period of ex-rulers in district—Datia of Madhya Pradesh. After the achievement of Independence, this regiment became a part and parcel of the Indian Army and the entire cantonment area of the regiment in the district came under the Ministry of Defence.

Since there is no industry there, I am, therefore, to request the Government to set