

As in the case of rubber and cardamom and other foreign exchange earning crops more dedicated field officers capable of taking the most advanced scientific knowledge to the door steps of the poor farmers should be sent there.

Sir, I submit that Kerala is being neglected in all fields—namely, railways, industry, etc. I request the Hon. Minister to pay his kind attention to the difficulties faced by the farmers and poor peasants in Kerala. With these word, I conclude.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH)**: Sir, most of the aspects highlighted by the Hon. Member have already been made earlier and I have given reply to those queries. I agree to the suggestion made by the Hon. Member and we will have a meeting of all concerned from the State who are growing coconut and sit with ICAR and other agencies including Coconut Development Board to see how best we can attend to these diseases which are there for centuries. It is no use cursing our scientists who have been doing a good job and helping the growers. There is always scope to do better and we will try to attend to the problems of coconut growers.

Sir, it is not fair to say that Kerala is being neglected. Perhaps there is not much time for me to highlight the various achievements made by Kerala under the 20-point programme in various sectors of rural development. Kerala has done so well that we are proud of Kerala and its people and we will continue to pay our attention to the problems of the Kerala people.

13.19 hrs.

[English]

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Sixth Report**

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT)**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[Translation]

- (i) **Release of Central Government share for speedy construction of road bridge over the river Ghagra in district Deoria (U.P.)**

**SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salempur)**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards the urgent need to take immediate steps for speedy construction of a road bridge on the river Ghagra at Bhagalpur in District Deoria, Uttar Pradesh.

I would like to submit in this connection that this bridge would connect Deoria and Balia districts and would provide an important link for those travelling between U.P. and Bihar. Keeping in view the importance of this bridge, the then Union Minister of Shipping and Transport had accorded his approval for the construction of this bridge nine years back. All the formalities had also been completed. The Central Government had provided a sum of nine lakhs of rupees to the State Government for undertaking a survey. But it is a matter of great surprise that despite approval of this bridge so many years back, it has not been constructed so far. As a result, there is a lot of frustration among the people of the area. From this, it is evident that there is gross neglect of our district.

The Cabinet of the U.P. Government has also passed a resolution at their meeting that this bridge should be constructed on a priority basis. The expenditure on the construction of this bridge would be shared by the Central Government and the State Government equally. The Government of India have not yet given their approval to grant their share to the State Government and as a result this important project is being delayed.

I would, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to expedite the sanction the Central grant for the construction of this bridge so that the construction of this bridge could start without further delay.