

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Immediate effective steps needed to check traffic Congestion in various parts of Delhi

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance in the House.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The traffic problem in Delhi is becoming acute day by day. It has been my own experience that if one has to go to New Delhi, East Delhi (Trans Yamuna) and other places from any part of the walled city of Delhi, he is held up due to the congestion of the traffic. It happens occasionally that those people who have to catch train from the station to attend some urgent work or have to catch flight, are unable to reach in time. The traffic problem is even more acute in Chandni Chowk, Khari Baoli and around the old Delhi Railway Station. If you want to have a look of the traffic jam, then you should use the old Rail-cum-road bridge to go to Trans-Yamuna. If not more, it takes 15 to 25 minutes to cross that bridge. Similar is the condition in Daryaganj. The condition further deteriorates near I.T.O. crossing. School lane bridge is also not being used fully due to the heavy congestion of traffic at the crossing of Barakhamba road.

Although it is true that number of flyovers were constructed during Asiad-82 and a new bridge is also under construction over Yamuna, even then I urge the Government that taking into consideration the growing population of Delhi, there is urgent need to take effective steps in this direction.

- (ii) Financial assistance to village panchayats for purchasing T.V. sets for the benefit of villagers

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have to take

the country on the path of progress speedily. For this it is necessary to utilize science and technology to the maximum so that we may make progress in every field. For strengthening the sense of unity and integrity in the country and to put checks on the vested interests against taking advantage from the ignorance of the people, it is necessary that the people of the country, majority of whom are living in the villages, are apprised fully of our plans and programmes so that they could prepare themselves mentally for the progress.

For this television is the most effective medium. The late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had initiated the expansion programme of television speedily. It is necessary to expand the facilities of television immediately in the remaining parts of the country. The people of the villages are not getting the benefit of television in the rural areas fully, because they are not in a position to purchase television sets due to poverty. The economic condition of the village panchayats is also not very good. The Central Government should therefore give grants to the village panchayats for the purchase of television sets so that they may instal television sets at the public places and the rural people could be benefited from them.

- (iii) Need to ensure timely payment to the weavers of Khalilabad and to set up a training centre for them

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Government have indeed done a commendable job by giving top priority to the cloth manufactured in the handloom sector under the new textile policy. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the major problems of the weavers of my parliamentary constituency, Khalilabad which is situated in the district of Basti in Uttar Pradesh and where Kabir attained salvation at Maghar town. Lakhs of weavers live in Khalilabad, Amardoma, Mehandawal, Dharamsinhwa Satha, Khesarha and other areas. Handloom is their only source of livelihood. Their

plight also needs attention. It has to be mentioned specially here that the Handloom Corporation does not pay the price of the products purchased from the poor weavers for months together on the plea that the Corporation has not received subsidy from the Central Government and the Corporation has also totally failed to supply the yarn of that category according to the requirements of the weavers. These weavers have been using old techniques in producing cloth as a result of which they are unable to compete in the world market in this modern, progressive age of competition. Under such circumstances it is necessary to open a training centre to save the livelihood of lakhs of weavers as also to modernise the handloom sector.

I would, therefore, like to urge the hon. Minister to ensure timely payment of the price of the products purchased from these weavers. Also a training centre should be opened immediately in order to train the weavers in Khalilabad and impart them latest know-how in the field.

[English]

(iv) Need to take steps for purchase of Cotton by Cotton Corporation of India and release the export quota of Cotton to enable the growers to set remunerative price

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh are very much agitated because cotton prices have gone down very much compared to the last season. Cotton Corporation of India has not been purchasing cotton as a result of which middle men are exploiting the growers. The same situation is prevailing in Punjab too. Hence the Government of India should ask CCI to start purchasing operations. Government should also release the export quota of cotton to all the cotton growing States to enable the grower to get better price. The Government should give up import of short staple cotton.

(v) Pitiable condition of labourers in different parts of the country and need to take necessary remedial measures to save the labourers intending to go abroad from cheating and fraud

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Thousands of Labourers from different parts of India, mostly from Orissa, taken by Contractors to work in U.P. at Uttarkasi and other places are subjected to inhuman atrocities and torture. This has come to light by the observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court basing on the Report of a District Judge. The labourers are not even given the minimum wages and kept in a very unhygienic conditions. Even the women labourers are made work under health hazardous conditions. Exploitation and ill-treatment to the labourers are agitating the minds of general public since long.

The labourers sent abroad are much exploited and tortured. The labourers are recruited through unauthorised agents making them stranded at Delhi for months together and heavy amounts are extracted from them, having allured to send them abroad. To solve the problem, the Government should have a Corporation at the Central as well as at the State levels. The State-owned Manpower Corporations may be established and activated to curb the malpractices of cheating and fraud. The Labour Advisory Committees at the Central as well as State levels be formed involving peoples' representatives for the benefit of the labourers. The Central Department of Labour is to be congratulated for having taken some steps, but required to take immediate stringent steps for the implementation and if necessary, acts may be enacted.

(vi) Demand for a separate region for meteorological offices in Orissa and for bifurcating the administrative channel from Regional Centre, Calcutta

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : India Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology is now divided into five