

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

11.10 hrs.

[English]

- (i) Need to restore the inland water transport facility between Kanyakumari and Ernakulam

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Providing Inland Water Transport facility between Kanyakumari and Ernakulam would accelerate and promote greatly the economic and tourist activities of the South-Western region of our country. Such a facility could be easily implemented by the renovation and removal of the gaps that exist in some places mainly in between Kanyakumari and Trivandrum. Previously, there was continuous and regular inland water transport facility between Kanyakumari and Trivandrum too, through the ancient A.V.M. canal. Subsequently, breaches occurred and closed some portions of the canal with sand and mud and earth and they are not renovated and removed for several years. So due to failure of maintenance and long neglect, now there is no continuous water transport service. If these gaps are removed and renovated and thereby continuity is restored, convenient and highly useful Inland Water Transport facility could be easily achieved between Kanyakumari and Trivandrum and by carrying renovation and maintenance work further north between Trivandrum and Quilon, a very useful inland water transport facility could be formed between Kanyakumari and Ernakulam. Such a facility would greatly promote trade, commerce and tourism and also that would provide cheaper and popular transport facility for the general public. So, Government may be pleased to take immediate steps for the speedy implementation of continuous Inland Water Transport facility between Kanyakumari and Ernakulam.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need to lay railway line connecting Barabanki with Bahraich in U.P.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

There is no direct rail service for Bahraich, the District headquarter, from Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh, while these two districts are contiguous to each other. For going to Bahraich, the District headquarter, the passengers first go to the Gonda district and from there they go to Bahraich by train which is not only time consuming but they have to pay the double fare also. Therefore, I demand that a railway line should be laid to link the district headquarter of Barabanki to the district headquarter of Bahraich so that passengers are not put to any difficulty. Bahraich district links Nepal to India. After this new railway line is constructed, the import-export trade of various items between India and Nepal will increase and the people will become more prosperous.

- (iii) Need to repair the National Highway from Bihar to the Chinese border

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377 :

The national highway in Bihar which has been an approach road to China for many years, has never been in good condition till date. For the last many years we have been hearing that it is being repaired, but the people fail to understand as to what sort of work is being done there. In other countries, people even make arrangements to travel under sea water within no time, but here, in our country, they talk of difficulties as the road lies by the side of the river Ganga. The people who have travelled on this road can alone tell of their plight. This national highway has strategic importance as it connects Bhutan to our country.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to make an enquiry at his level and contact the Government of Bihar to get the road repaired immediately so that difficulties of the people could be removed.

[English]

- (iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh for lift irrigation project to ensure water supply to Datia town

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind) : Sir, I invite the attention of the House to the dire need of augmenting the water supply system for the Datia town.