

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.

Presently water supply to Datia town is made from Ram Sagar. But this system is highly inadequate and after years of drought, as 1985 and 1986 have been, the water scarcity in Datia is too acute to withstand. The need to augment the water supply to Datia town has been only recognised at all levels including the State and Central Government levels.

Reliance had, however, been placed for the purpose at Raj Ghat Project; but progress in regard to this project is so tardy and sluggish that one can hardly conceive of augmentation of water supply for Datia from this project in foreseeable future. The project has been bogged down in inter-State wranglings while the cost of the project is escalating and multiplying.

A proposal has, therefore, been made to augment supply of water to Datia town and adjoining areas from the river Sindh by way of lift irrigation. Though it would be very much economical and feasible to supply water to Datia through lift system from Sindh, it would be too much to expect the State Government by itself to finance the scheme. Adequate Central Assistance will, therefore, be very necessary to implement the scheme. I understand a survey for the scheme ordered last year, has yet to start. I would very much appreciate if Central Government comes forward to extend liberal aid to ensure that the lift project for water supply to these areas is implemented forthwith.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Need to adopt measures to destroy the Lantana bushes to protect the forests in the country

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter in the House, under Rule 377 :

The percentage of the forests in the country is declining day by day due to illegal felling of trees. Besides the illegal felling of the trees the rapid expansion of Lantana bushes is also equally responsible for it. The rapid expansion of these bushes in all the forests of the country is destroying other trees also. Therefore, for the development of the forests, it is quite essential to destroy the Lantana bushes. Not only in the forests,

these bushes have also expanded in the rocky hillocks and in the plains. One may find these bushes everywhere. It has totally stopped the growth of the trees. So, in order to protect our environment, we will have to destroy the Lantana bushes on a war footing.

I request that the Central Government should immediately adopt measures to destroy these dangerous Lantana bushes so that the forests could be saved in time.

[*English*]

- (vi) Need to increase the monthly remuneration being paid to the Village Health Guides and also the amount of medicines supplied to them per month

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : The Village Health Guides (V.H.G.s) are the grassroot workers of our country who render their services for the benefit of the people in interior-most parts of our country with a scanty monthly remuneration. They are the first persons to attend on the patients of various types and render preventive, curative as well as first aid treatments to the patients living in rural areas and in the countryside. But unfortunately these persons are not paid their monthly remuneration regularly; sometimes it takes even 7-8 months, resulting in utmost difficulties, miseries and inconveniences.

Besides, medicines worth Rs. 50/- (Rupees fifty only) per month are supplied to these V.H.G.s which amount was fixed in the year 1977. In spite of increase in the prices of medicines, the amount of medicines to be supplied to them has not been enhanced, resulting in acute shortage of medicines. Even these medicines are not supplied to them regularly.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to kindly take immediate measures so that regular supply of medicines is ensured and monthly remuneration is paid to them regularly. Also the amount of medicines may be enhanced to Rs. 100/-. The monthly remuneration of the Guides may also be increased.

- (vii) Need to take steps to modernise Sindri Fertilizer Plant

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the fertiliser plant at Sindri which is