

12.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULES 377

- (i) Need to provide financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh for construction of hostel and school buildings for Scheduled Caste students.

[English]

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI (Raigarh) : Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the rate of literacy among Scheduled Castes in Madhya Pradesh is much below the national average. The reason for low rate of literacy among Scheduled Castes is not far to seek. The number of Ashram schools and other educational institutions opened in the Scheduled Caste populated areas in M. P. are only a few. The Government of India has not sanctioned any Central assistance to open any new boys/girls Ashram schools in that State. On the other hand the financial position of the State Government is not sound enough to bear 100% expenditure towards the cost of new Ashram schools.

At present, the Central Government is providing 50% of the cost of construction of school buildings and hostel buildings for Scheduled Caste girls. But no assistance is being given by the Centre for construction of school or hostel buildings for Scheduled Caste boys.

Unless the Central Government provides adequate assistance, the literacy rate among Scheduled Caste boys and girls will not increase. Therefore, I request the Central Government to open more Ashram schools in the Scheduled Caste populated areas in Madhya Pradesh.

I urge upon the Government to provide 100% grant to the State of Madhya Pradesh to open such new schools. The Central Government should at least bear 50% of the total cost towards the hostel and school buildings for Scheduled Caste girls in that State. The Central Government should also provide at least 50 to 60% matching grant to the State of Madhya Pradesh for the construction of hostel and school buildings for Scheduled Caste boys.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need to set up a T. V. Centre at Balasore in Orissa during the 7th Plan period.

*SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI (Bhadrak) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the television net work provided in Orissa is very inadequate when compared to other States in the country. Only one TV centre has been set up so far at Cuttack and the other at Sambalpur in the State of Orissa.

Balasore is an advanced district in the sphere of education, culture and other fields. It is situated at a distance of 200 kms. from the State capital Bhubaneswar. The TV programmes shown in Cuttack or Sambalpur TV cannot be viewed in the TV in Balasore district. Therefore, there is every justification to set up a TV centre at Balasore. If a TV centre is set up at Balasore, it will go a long way in the promotion of culture of that district. Moreover, the people of Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts can also watch the programme shown on Balasore TV. The Government of India has a proposal to set up one TV centre in each district. Therefore, I demand that Balasore district should be included in the above programme and TV centre should be set up there during the Seventh Plan period.

[English]

- (iii) Need to instruct Government of J & K to provide relief and assistance to the victims of flood and cloud bursts in the Karchey valley of Kargil district of Ladakh.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Sir, the Karchey valley of Kargil district of Ladakh is lying in utter neglect and not a single senior district officer has ever visited the valley during the last over ten years. The valley had been suffering due to frequent floods and cloud bursts during the last five to six years which resulted in completely washing away of residential houses, cultivable lands, plantations and pasture land. The Government of India

* The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.