

12.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to clear Sone Canal Project and to provide necessary finances for it

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna): In previous sessions I have raised the issue of modernisation of Sone Canal. The Minister assured in the last session that this matter will be taken up soon. Recently a news item was published in a local daily (Indian Water) that this project has been shelved. If this project is not taken up, quite a vast area of Bihar will be turned into a desert. I urge the Central Government to intervene in this matter and get this project cleared from Planning Commission and necessary finances allocated for it.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need to direct the Government of Rajasthan to advance funds to the Government of Haryana for construction of the part of Gang Canal link in Haryana

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): The Gang Canal at Bikaner was constructed nearly 60 years ago. That is why its portion which lies in Punjab is broken, due to which it is not carrying its share of 2750 cusecs of water from Harike barrage.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

At present, this canal is carrying only 1850 cusecs of water which is production-wise causing a great loss to the farmers. Keeping in view the aforesaid points, the Government of Rajasthan started constructing a canal named Gang Canal link from R.D. 529 of Harike barrage to Indira Gandhi Canal, in order to carry the water-share of the Gang Canal. The construction work of the portion of this link canal, which lies in Rajasthan, will be completed in the year 1986-87. A small portion of this canal lies in Haryana also for the construction of which the Rajasthan Government had to pay a sum of Rs. 2 crore and 30 lakhs to the Government of Haryana but so far this payment has not been made.

It will cause delay in starting this link. The repair work of the portion of the Gang Canal, which lies in Punjab, is possible only after the link starts.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that Government of Rajasthan should be asked to complete the construction work of this canal. If the construction work of the portion of this canal which lies in Haryana, is not completed within the prescribed limit, the farmers who depend on the Gang Canal will be ruined and for this the Central Government will be responsible.

- (iii) Demand for more public call offices in Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani and Ganjam districts of Orissa

*SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): The Government of India has undertaken a massive programme for the expansion of the telecommunication network in the country. But it is regrettable that the present state of affairs in regard to the functioning of the telecommunication department in Phulbani and Bolangir districts in Orissa is far from satisfactory. It is not possible to contact the people in Bhubaneswar, the State capital of Orissa from Phulbani even after waiting for hours after booking the call.

The Government have banned the opening of new PCOs and BPOs in the country till 1990. The development of Sonepur, Binka areas of Bolangir districts and Kalahandi and Phulabani districts of the State will be retarded if this ban is enforced. Those are the backward districts in Orissa. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to reconsider the decision keeping in view the rapid development of the State. I, therefore, demand that more number of Public Call Offices and Branch Post Offices should be opened in Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani and Ganjam districts of Orissa during the 7th Plan period.

[English]

- (iv) Need to release natural gas for distribution to Bombay citizens through Bombay High Gas Company

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): The feasibility of distri-

*This speech was originally delivered in Oriya.