

(ii) **Steps needed to provide drinking water in Purnea district of Bihar**

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking under Rule 377. The first and foremost necessity of the country is to provide drinking water to the people and my Government is also doing that. It is, however, regretted that drinking water is not being made available in a proper way. I want to refer to the situation prevailing in my area, Purnea. During these years I have been visiting villages and I have seen the miserable condition of the people with my own eyes. I have been writing to the Government of Bihar time and again but nothing is being done, though the water is available at a depth of 24' to 30' in our area. What a miserable life the people, specially Harijans are leading, nobody can imagine without seeing it.

I request the Central Government to find out from the state Government whether there is any paucity of funds and if it is so, the same may please be made good so that drinking water is provided to the people and their difficulty is removed.

[English]

(iii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for completing Kodumudiyaru Reservoir Scheme in Tirunelveli district**

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN (Tiruchendur) : Sir, the districts in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, particularly Tirunelveli district, have been gripped with severe drought leading to acute shortage of drinking water. Any chance of water availability in this area for irrigation purpose would only be a day-dream.

Sir, in my Constituency near Valliyur, Kodumudiyaru Reservoir Scheme was sanctioned in 1976 and necessary construction work had already been taken in hand for the above reservoir. An expenditure to the extent of Rs. 10 lakhs had already been incurred for this reservoir scheme. But later, the said reservoir work could not be con-

tinued for the reason that the Forest Protection Act of 1980 enforced by the Central Government came in the way of completing the above work. However, it was later clarified that such works sanctioned and taken up in hand before 1980 do not attract this Act of 1980. I have also addressed to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu requesting him for the early completion of this work treating it as ongoing subject.

12.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Since the people, particularly belonging to the poor and weaker sections and landless farmers, in the area have been undergoing a lot of sufferings due to severe drought situation consecutively for three years now, the Kodumudiyaru Reservoir Scheme assumes greater importance and its immediate completion will mean an oasis for the people of that area.

I would, therefore, request the Union Government kindly arrange to issue urgently necessary clarification to the State Government and also help in releasing financial assistance for the above reservoir scheme.

[Translation]

(iv) **Demand for an ordnance factory in cantonment area of Datia district in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Defence to a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

There was an Army regiment known as "Govind Infantry" during the period of ex-rulers in district—Datia of Madhya Pradesh. After the achievement of Independence, this regiment became a part and parcel of the Indian Army and the entire cantonment area of the regiment in the district came under the Ministry of Defence.

Since there is no industry there, I am, therefore, to request the Government to set

[Shri Krishna Singh]

up some industry there. There will be no difficulty for the Department of Defence Production to set up an industry in that cantonment area which is already under their control and hence there will be no problem of acquiring land. Keeping in view that it is a backward and no industry area and also the unemployment prevailing in the area, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Defence that for the development of this area, a defence based industry may please be set up there without delay to enable the people to have equal opportunities of progress and to see that regional imbalance is ended. This site is situated on the main line of the Central Railway.

- (v) **Need to take necessary steps to protect ferro-manganese factories in the country**

SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI (Bhandara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Iron and Steel Factories had been procuring ferro-manganese from the Ferro-manganese Factories for the last 25 years. A few years back the Government of India took over the M.E.L. Factory which was lying closed. Even after its taking over about 20 per cent ferro-manganese used to be supplied by the M.E.L. and the remaining 80 per cent by other factories. But now almost all the ferro-manganese is being supplied by the M.E.L. since the last year and the remaining factories are facing closure as a result thereof. The factory of the M.E.L. which was lying closed, has been re-started but due to it the remaining ferro-manganese factories have come to a state of closure. This will render thousands of labourers jobless. How far it is justified to protect one factory at the cost of 6 factories. Out of these 6 factories, 2 factories belong to my constituency. Memoranda to this effect have been forwarded to all and one personally handed over to the hon. Minister of Steel and Mines on behalf of the All India Manganese Producers' Association.

It is my submission to the Central Government that suitable action may be taken in this regard so that those factories which are

running properly under good conditions, are not closed and the unemployment problem of workers does not arise.

- (vi) **Need to take necessary steps to prevent exploitation of migrant workers from Orissa engaged in construction activities in various States**

*SHRI ANANDI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, more than 500 migrant workers belonging to Ganjam, Puri, Cuttack, Keonjhar and Mayurbhung districts of Orissa have been engaged in the construction activities at Kadam Kolar dam under construction in Assam. These workers are being made to work for ten hours a day, yet they are not being paid minimum wages. Due to lack of rest, proper food and other minimum facilities they very often fall ill. The employer does not give them medicine or any other financial help when they fall ill. These migrant workers have been lured away by some contractors of Puri district in Orissa. These workers were promised that they would be given lucrative wages and other benefits. But ultimately they are even not being paid the minimum wages and also they are being harassed by the employer. The poor people of Orissa working as migrant workers at different construction sites in Assam, Meghalaya and some other States are facing the same problem. They are being exploited by the employers as well as the contractors.

As such, I request the Government of India to come to the rescue of those migrant workers and see that they are paid minimum wages. At the same time, I demand action against the contractors and employers who are exploiting those migrant workers.

[English]

- (vii) **Need to withdraw the decision to adjust the dues of West Bengal State Electricity Board to NTPC and Coal India Ltd. against Central assistance.**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur) : Sir, it is a matter of serious