

[*Translation*]

(III) Demand for directives to State Governments to rescue poor people from exploitation by money lenders.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to inform that after 40 years of independence and in spite of the large scale expansion of banks, there has been no improvement in the conditions of the economically backward sections. Though the Central Government and the State Governments have taken various steps yet their situation remains the same and the money lenders still continue to operate. This practice may be found in every city, village, mill or factory. The people who are economically backward are exploited by these money lenders by mortgaging their precious belongings like jewellery or land and they are forced to serve as bounded labours. The rate of interests is so high that they are compelled to pay the interest throughout their life and even then the principle amount remains the same. The result is they are exploited mentally, economically and physically.

So, I would like to urge the Government to direct the State Governments and the nationalised banks to conduct a survey to find out those people who have taken loan upto Rs. 10,000 and take immediate steps to relieve and rehabilitate them.

(iv) Demand for sufficient power supply to small scale industries and farmers in Bihar.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I beg to submit the following information.

The number of sick industries in Bihar has increased to a great extent in the recent years. According to figures 40,000 out of the total 60,000 registered small scale industries in Bihar are sick. The main reason of the sickness of industries is the power shortage and non-cooperative attitude of financial

institutions. About 5000 people have been rendered jobless as a result of the closure of Rohtas industry. Large number of industrial units and farmers are facing hardships due to power-shortage in a major industrial town of Barauni. More than 50 transformers in Farauni and Begusarai divisions of Begusarai district are lying burnt since last few years. As a result of this the consumers are either not getting any supply and if getting the voltage remains very low. Besides, Electricity Boards are suffering a loss of lakhs of rupees.

I would urge the Government to provide power facilities to the industrial units.

(v) Demand for assistance to Rajasthan Government to enable it to cope with the drought conditions in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I submit the following information under Rule 377.

It is presumed that agricultural production would increase in the country due to good and timely rain fall from June 1988 to September 1988. Unfortunately, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Shergarh and Falodi Tehsils in Jodhpur district are the areas which come under the Thar Desert and have been hard hit by drought this year. There was a good rainfall in most of the areas of this desert in July. But because of no rains after Aug. 15, 1988, 75 to 100 per cent of the crops of millet Moth and Gawar have been destroyed. These districts have been continuously hit by drought for the last five years. The Central Government provided adequate assistance to the Government of Rajasthan due to which a number of lives could be saved. The problem of employment has become serious because of the successive five year's drought. It has become essential to start drought relief works and provide jobs to the people.

The State Government cannot afford to