

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Hon. Member will not be here tomorrow. Her name is first.

MR. SPEAKER : We can take it at 12.30. Supply them the copy and we will take it up at 12.30 after the statements under 377 are made.

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12.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to send a Committee of Experts to survey areas in villages in Ratua and Malda in West Bengal which get inundated due to overflow of Fulahar river.

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj) : Neighbouring vast areas of the villages of Bilaimari and Mohanandatola in Ratua P. S. and of Islampur and Bhakuria of Harishchandrapur P. S. of Malda of West Bengal get inundated almost every year due to overflow of Fulahar river because the areas are outside the Malcor Bundh in the Harishchandrapur P. S. Tremendous loss of crops, cattle and properties occur. Thousands of people then have to take shelter on the Bundh. No attention is being given to find out a solution to this great problem.

Hence, I draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Water Resources to send a Committee of Experts to survey the area and suggest means for proper solution soon.

- (ii) Need for early completion of Kalinadi Hydro-electric Project Stage II to overcome power crises in Karnataka.

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : Sir, Karnataka is passing through one of the worst periods as far as power and drinking water supply positions are concerned. Continuous drought for the last 4 years has crippled the economy and strained the resources of Karnataka. The power cut is upto 80 per cent on H. T. consumers and corresponding harsh restrictions on all others.

Power position in Karnataka may not improve even if the on going projects are completed on schedule. Karnataka is facing such deficit situation right from the early 50's through the whole of 70's with the last deficit spell still continuing.

Unless corrective steps are taken in the immediate future management capabilities of both the suppliers of energy and the consumers would be put to severe test.

The Kalinadi Hydro-Electric Project Stage II scheme comprises construction of three dams namely Dandhi, Kodalalli and Kadra dams and dam site power houses with total installed capacity of 320 MW. The annual energy generation is 1,260 million kilowatt hours. The estimated costs of energy generation are Rs. 32,740 lakhs and 29.3 paise per unit respectively. The detailed project report for this scheme has been approved by Central Electricity Authority and Planning Commission. State Forest Department have sent proposals for forests clearance to Government of India long back.

Unless Government of India takes a pragmatic and realistic approach to the Kalinadi Hydro-Electric Project Stage-II there is no solution for the power problem in Karnataka. Therefore, I request the Government of India to complete Kalinadi Project Stage II immediately.

[Translation]

- (iii) Demand for effective measures to put an end to dowry system.

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the following matter under rule 377 :

The dowry system in our society is spreading like cancer. Many girls are falling victims to the monster of dowry as they are not able to meet the demands for more dowry. Inter-caste marriages should be encouraged to eliminate this evil practice from the society completely. The Anti-Dowry Act will be effective only when feelings against dowry system are created in the minds of the people. Such news about dowry victims

are published in the papers daily as make one sad. I would urge the Hon. Minister that effective steps should be taken to check this evil immediately.

12.13 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

[*English*]

(iv) Demand for merger of all the four subsidiary General Insurance companies into one Corporation.

**SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Paraji) :** Sir, the General Insurance Company with four subsidiary companies, namely, National Insurance Company, New India Insurance Company, Oriental General Insurance Company and United India Insurance Company a total of 47 Regional Offices, 681 Divisional Offices and 2,032 Branch Offices. There is absolutely no need of four subsidiary companies with multiple offices when the entire business can well be entrusted to one Corporation. The agency system in the various general insurance companies has become a finely woven racket, which, instead of popularising the business, promotes the interest of the Inspectors who run the racket by appointing 'Benami' agents. According to General Insurance Company in 1984, an amount of over Rs. 25 crores was paid towards commission for the Agents. This amount can well be saved for the development of rural areas and also to make good the losses in the matter of Crop Insurance, which, in the initial stages is likely to meet rough weather.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister to take immediate steps to bring about the merger of all the four subsidiary General Insurance Companies into one and the only one General Insurance Corporation.

(v) Demand for starting the Automatic Telephone Exchange in the new building at Tellicherry (Kerala).

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) :** Sir, the Tellicherry Telephone Exchange in the North Kerala is one of the largest manually operated Exchanges in South India with nearly 2,000 connections. It

is sad to note that this Exchange which is one of the first to be started by the Britishers along the West Coast is still lagging behind although giant strides have been made by our country in the field of telecommunication.

Once the headquarters of the entire West Coast, even today Tellicherry has a pivotal role in the trade and commerce activities in South India. An Auto-exchange is, therefore, essential for its development.

It is a paradox to note that land for this purpose was acquired some twenty years ago. After a long delay a five story building has now been constructed. However, contrary to all expectations of the people and promises of the department, inordinate delay is again seen in the installation of machinery. This needs looking into especially since the machinery had already been obtained and housed in a separate building by paying Rs. 2000/- per month as rent. Rent is also being paid for the private building in which the Tellicherry exchange is now housed. Hence any further delay will be an extravagance and against public interest.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry to take urgent steps to start the Auto-Exchange in the new building immediately since this will be in the better interest of the entire Malabar area.

[*Translation*]

(vi) Demand for financial assistance to Bihar Government for providing relief to the flood-affected people in North Bihar.

**SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Burhi Gandak and the Ghagra rivers are in spate due to heavy rains in the north Bihar. Lakhs of people living in Siwan, Gopalganj, eastern and western Champaran of north Bihar have been affected by the floods. I myself visited those places and found that thousands of villages of Kuchaikot, Baikundpur, Majha, Baroli and Gopalganj blocks have been marooned by the flood waters and thousands of houses have been sub-merged in the river Ganga due to floods and soil erosion. Besides, property, livestock and crops have been washed away. The same condition obtains in all the above-mentioned