

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, in the other House, they are very relaxed...

(*Interruptions*)

They do everything, they talk about everything, discuss everything. Our blood pressure is always going high. Why should we not...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We have allowed everything everyday here.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We should relax.

MR. SPEAKER : We allow everything. I agree with you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There is too much of tension and quarrelling about.

MR. SPEAKER : You are an elder Member of the House. Please convey this message to all of them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am conveying it to everybody including you. Sir !

MR. SPEAKER : I never get high blood pressure, My blood pressure is always 120.20 ?

Now we shall take up matters under rule 377.

12.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(i) Need to lay down rules and regulations for safety of ferry boats

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : The large number of incidents year after year, of boats capsizing in the Ganga and other larger rivers of the country underline the need to ensure at least minimum safety standards in ferries along all major rivers in the country. Though these are State matters, the Centre can help the States by preparing model safety regulations in licens-

ing boats and in maintaining them. The practices of overloading these boats, particularly during festivals and *melas*, is also widespread. There has not been any national effort so far to focus attention on the problems of plying boats in river ferries and convention is allowed to rule with disastrous consequences. As the people who die in boat mishaps are poor, their plight does not receive national attention as does a plane crash, for instance. The Centre should, therefore, call for a conference of State officials and Ministers to lay down safety rules and regulations and to ensure that ferry boats are not overloaded.

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the Chair]

[*Translation*]

(ii) Need to adopt measures to save Bihar and other parts of the country from floods, droughts, etc.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

Hardly any year passess when the lives of the people in this country remain unaffected by drought and floods. Every year lakhs of people are ruined due to devastating floods or serious drought and this calamities recur year after year. Time has come when a permanent solution to these problems has to be found. In my opinion, a national water grid should be formed and all the inter State rivers be declared as national rivers. Crores of trees should be planted in the hilly and other areas to check soil erosion.

If even a portion of the money spent on relief works every year is spent on finding a permanent solution to the problems of drought and floods, a major calamity can be averted. In this connection there is need to construct large number of small canals. Embankments should be constructed along the rivers to save Bihar and other States from silt. In this way their flow can be checked to a great extent.

There is need to supply electricity on priority basis to the drought affected areas to enable them to operate tubewells for irrigation purposes and thereby save the States from the fury of drought.

I hope that the Government would endeavour to find a permanent solution to the problem of floods and drought at the earliest.

(iii) **Need to provide adequate job security to the contract workers of Surat Textile Mills, Gujarat**

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar) : About 90 per cent of the total workers of Surat Textile Mills, Gujarat are from Orissa. They were lured away by the labour contractors by promising them lucrative wages. But they are still working there on a purely temporary basis and the contractors are collecting commission from their wages.

No service conditions have been prescribed for them. They do not get full pay leave. They do not get wages on the weekly holidays. They do not get medical facilities like the permanent workers. When some workers meet accident at the time of work, they are thrown out of employment. The concerned managements do not enforce any labour laws. Therefore, it is necessary that these workers are rendered full protection from the harassment of the labour contractors. As they have been working since long, their jobs should be regularised without any further delay and other benefits given to the permanent workers should also be given to them. I request the Government of India to direct the concerned management to extend all sort of medical facilities to these workers. I demand that an impartial enquiry should be conducted regarding the conditions existing in Surat Textile Mills and adequate job securities should be provided to the workers.

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

[English]

(iv) **Demand for a comprehensive sugar policy in the Seventh Five Year Plan.**

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : The present level of sugar production in the country is not sufficient to meet our requirements and the Government had to resort to large-scale import of sugar from abroad in the current year in order to meet the demand of the people and also to keep the spiralling prices of sugar in check at a reasonable level. It may be recalled that in the past we were able to export sugar in moderate quantities. This reversal of the situation from being surplus to deficit in sugar production and its rising prices, undoubtedly indicates that there is something wrong in our planning and policies so far as production of sugar is concerned.

It is necessary to increase the licensed capacity of sugar factories. More licenses for setting up new sugar factories and for expanding the existing factories should be given to increase sugar production. Targets should be fixed before issuing licences for new factories. Adequate facilities should also be provided to encourage new units.

It is also necessary to ensure remunerative prices of the sugarcane growers and provide them other incentives to increase production of sugar-cane.

A comprehensive new sugar policy for the Seventh Five-Year Plan should be formulated and announced by the Government as early as possible to make India a surplus country in sugar production.

[Translation]

(v) **Need to declare Bastar district in Madhya Pradesh as industrially backward areas**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, District Bastar is considered a backward Adivasi area not only in Madhya Pradesh but in the entire country. But even then that district has not been treated as an industrially backward district of the country. Whoever visits the district, he is surprised to see why it has been deprived of industries.