

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

18.02 hrs

(i) Need to Declare Kerala as an Industrially Backward State.*[English]*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur) : The Government of India in its budget for 1993-94, had declared some States as Industrially backward States. These include, in addition to the north eastern States, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry etc. In the Union Budget Speech, 1994-95, it was declared that the Government of India would consider declaring other States or districts as backward.

The States or Districts declared industrially backward by the Union Government have the advantage that the new industrial undertakings coming up in these States are exempted from payment of Income Tax for the first five years. All the districts in Kerala can be considered to be much less industrially developed than Goa, Pondicherry or Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, the Central Government should consider declaring the whole of Kerala as an industrially backward State. I request the Government of India to consider this suggestion favourably.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Vasant Pawar – Not present

Shri Shravan Kumar Patel – Not present

Shri Gopi Nath Gajapathi – Not present

(ii) Need to Provide Adequate Funds for all Round Development of Border Area of Banaskantha, Gujarat.*[Translation]*

SHRI HARI SINGH CHAVDA (Bansakantha) : The northern part of my constituency is contiguous to Pakistan and Rajasthan border. There is very less rainfall in this district and this area faces the situation of famine every alternate year. There is no proper arrangement for education and the people there are economically and socially very backward.

Banaskantha is backward industrially as well. People are on the verge of starvation.

18.05 hrs

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

I request the Central Government to make a provision of special financial assistance for the industrial, agricultural, health and educational development of this district. As this district is situated along the Indo-Pak border, this area should also get the benefit of Border Area Development Scheme, under which roads should be constructed, and educational and health facilities provided there.

(iii) Need to Conduct Surveys for Generation of Hydro-Power in Hardoi and Adjoining Areas in U.P.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahbad) : Sir, Hardoi, Lakhimpur Khiri, Sitapur, Unnao and Farrukhabad districts of U. P. are economically backward districts. Despite huge industrial potential, no industrial development has taken place in this region due to acute shortage of energy resources there. This area has remained undeveloped owing to non-availability of electricity which is the main resource of energy.

Energy produced from small hydro-power is perhaps the oldest and most reliable sources of energy which can make electricity available in rural and remote areas at cheap rates. The water resources in this area are available in abundance. Besides rivers like Ganga, Gomati, many other small rivers also pass through this area. Besides, there is quite a sizeable number of canals in this area. As such, there is rich possibility of hydro-power generation in this area.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to conduct a survey to find out this possibility of setting up hydro-power projects in this area so that social and economic development of this area could be ensured.

*[English]***(iv) Need to Release Adequate Funds to Jute Corporation of India for Commencing Minimum Support Price Operation.**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, jute industry was at one time the mainstay of economy of West Bengal both in terms of employment and a potential foreign exchange earner. But somehow or the other, it has now fallen on bad times mainly due to the resources crunch of the Jute Corporation of India which is at present in charge of the procurement of raw jute. With the arrival of new jute crop in the market, mill owners and traders were preparing to reduce the price level to force the growers to opt for distress sale. Central trade unions have already urged the Central Government to immediately release funds to Jute Corporation of India for raw jute procurement. As things stand at present, on the pretext of raw jute shortage and high price, some mill owners had locked their mills. Operation hours of some mills had been reduced causing loss of wages and other statutory benefits to the workers. The Jute Corporation of India has not been provided any funds for its minimum support price operation for the last two years. It had helped the employer-trader combine. JCI had a large amount of dues from National Jute Manufacturers Corporation and the Government. Such dues remained outstanding for a long period.

I would urge the Central Government for the immediate release of adequate funds to the Jute Corporation of India for commencing minimum support price operation.