

the fitness of the things if he says something on the issue.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Shri Ram Nayak has brought up the case of a particular bank. The way he has presented the facts, I respectfully submit that they do not bring out the correct state of affairs. There was a Development Cooperative Bank and it was being run with the blessings of His Highness Mr. Aga Khan. Mr. Aga Khan came here two years ago. And they said that they want to convert this Bank into a scheduled bank so that they can serve the Indian people and, as part of its policy, the minorities on a larger scale. So with their consent and at their instance, we have allowed that Bank to be converted from a cooperative bank to a scheduled bank. So, from that to say that we are privatising cooperative banks, is totally wrong.

SHRI RAM NAIK : A scheduled bank is a different matter. A cooperative bank can be a scheduled bank. But it has been made a joint stock company. That is my submission. Kindly examine it.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : All that has been done at the instance of the promoters of the bank.

SHRI RAM NAYAK : There are 45,000 share-holders. What happens to them?

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we have devoted forty minutes to this. Let us go to the other item, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

12.40 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

(1) G.S.R. 417 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1995 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (Licensing of Stevedores and Allied Matters) (First Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

(2) G.S.R. 420 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 1995 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Dock (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

(3) G.S.R. 522 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 1995 approving the Kandla Port Trust (Licensing of Stevedores) (Amendment) Regulations, 1994.

(4) G.S.R. 545 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 1995 approving the Bombay Port Trust (Forms and Manner in which contract shall be made) (Amendment) Regulations, 1995.

[Placed in the library, See No. L.T. 7979/95]

12.40½ hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Tenth Report

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their Tenth Report presented to the House on 4th August, 1995 have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members for the period mentioned against each :-

1. Shri Probin Deka	24.4.95 to 03.06.95
2. Shri Rajaram S. Mane	31.7.95 to 17.08.95
3. Shri R. Jeevarathinam	31.7.95 to 14.08.95
4. Shri Shyam Lal Kamal	31.7.95 to 25.08.95
5. Kumari Uma Bharti	31.7.95 to 25.08.95

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.41 hrs.

[English]

COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Twenty-first Report

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Home Affairs on the Hire-Purchase (Amendment) Bill, 1989.

12.41½ hrs

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1995-96

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1995-96.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 7979/A/95.]

12.42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) Need to Clear the Hydel Power Projects of Himachal Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh has a capacity of producing 20 thousand megawatt of hydel power. State Government of Himachal Pradesh, as per its new policy, has submitted some plans for the approval of the Government of India to encourage private entrepreneurs, but the State Government has not got

approval so far. Due to the delay in giving approval to these projects there will be cost escalation and the educated unemployed youths will lose the opportunity to get the jobs in these projects to improve their financial position. If the projects are given approval, these will boost the industrialisation there and the rural areas will get more electricity. I would like to request the Government of India to immediately grant approval to all the proposals for power projects, submitted by the Himachal Pradesh State Government so that the persons to set up projects in this area, may not face any difficulty and the construction of Hydel Power Projects may also be completed in the stipulated time.

(ii) Need for Early Completion of Road between Darbhanga and Forbesganj in border district of Saharsa, Bihar

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Saharsa in North Bihar is a border district. Its border touches the borders of neighbouring country Nepal. At the time of Chinese aggression in 1962, Indian Army had experienced difficulty in reaching in time due to non-availability of road on the border and the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, realising this short-coming, had taken a decision to construct a border road from Kashmir to Assam. As a result of that decision, a road from Kashmir to Darbhanga and from Forbesganj to Assam was constructed. But, as a bridge could not be constructed on Kosi river at that time, a small stretch of the road from Darbhanga to Forbesganj is still incomplete even after 30 years.

Since, that stretch of the road from Darbhanga to Forbesganj is still incomplete, the army has to take a long route wasting much of time and money. The construction of road will benefit the people of the area suffering due to non-availability of transport alongwith strengthening the security in the border area.

I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Government of India to construct the remaining part of the road from Darbhanga to Forbesganj on priority basis and without further delay so that a safe and secure road from Kashmir to Assam is constructed. At the same time, the people of bordering districts of Darbhanga and Forbesganj will also be benefited with the transport facility. Therefore, this important road should immediately be constructed.

(iii) Need to find a permanent solution to the problem of potable water in Hilly areas of U.P. especially in Pauri and Chamoli Districts

MAJ. GEN.(RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the crisis of potable water in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, specially in Pauri and Chamoli, has constantly been deepening. Almost three fourth of the villages of these districts are experiencing serious problem of drinking water. Although, as per official data, drinking water has been made available to many of these villages but actually, the drinking water is not available there. In most of the villages, drinking water schemes have failed and are not functioning after the earthquake of 1991 and they have not been made operative so far.

People have to cover four to five kilometre distance in hilly terrain to reach the valleys to fetch the potable water. Even in this season of heavy downpour they are deprived of

the drinking water. In my native districts Pauri and Chamoli, the main reason for the crisis is that water level is too low. Rivers like Ganga and Yamuna are of no use and importance in these districts from the point of view of drinking water. For the construction of any drinking water scheme, pumping set has to be installed which involves heavy amount of money.

The crisis of drinking water in these districts, deepens during summer, when even natural source of water also dries up. People have to sacrifice whole day to fetch a bucket of water. I have already raised this issue several times but the Government has not taken any concrete step so far.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to constitute a special Central Committee to find the solution of the problem of Pauri Garhwal and Chamoli districts hit by drinking water crisis and chalk out a concrete and perspective drinking water plan for these districts. Besides, it should immediately conduct a survey of the villages hit by drinking water crisis and annual target should also be fixed for making drinking water available in these villages. I request that this work should be done on a war footing.

(iv) Need to stop acquisition of villages of Palamu, Chatra and Gaya Districts of Bihar for the use of the Army

SHRI UPENDRANATH VERMA (Chatra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is learnt that the Government is going to acquire hundreds of villages of Manatu, Pratap Pur, Kunda, Lava Laung, Huterganj, Dumariya, Imanganj blocks of Palamu, Chatra and Gaya, the most backward districts of the country in Bihar, for military purposes. At first, some villages of Ranchi and Palamu districts were proposed to be evacuated for military exercise but perhaps due to protest made by local populace, the location is being changed and now most part of my constituency Chatra, is being acquired affecting hundreds of villages and millions of people. People of the affected villages are agitated after learning about it through newspapers.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to clear the position and stop the move.

(v) Need to ensure availability of Natural Gas to Rajasthan on priority basis for setting up Gas Based Power Houses

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is a backward-desert State. Since no river flows through the State, it is cursed to depend on electricity, supplied by other states on higher rates.

It is a fact that State Government is toiling hard to develop and exploit the ample reserves of oil estimated about 100 million tonnes, found in Bikaner-Nagaur basin. It is being ensured that the exploitation and refining of petroleum, found in the State may be done there itself as soon as possible. There are big reserves of oil and natural gas beneath the sea (Bombay High) on the Western Coast of the country, which are the great source of natural gas alongwith oil. But the Government could not make proper arrangements for proper utilisation of natural gas. Therefore, gas is flared on the water level itself.

Gas reserves, found beneath the sea are national property. This natural gift should be properly utilised for the