

the Table an explanatory Statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Ordinance, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5400/94]

12.45 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

#### (i) Need to ban Lottery Business in the Country

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): The lotteries business had been started and run by almost all the State Government and private agencies with the good intention of augmenting the developmental projects in the country but this has turned out to be a big racket fleecing the poorest of the poor who have become victims to it. Purchasing of the lottery tickets has been a common phenomenon among the poor wage earners spending most of their earnings and thus depriving their families of the daily needs of life and the children the right to education and better living. Poverty instead of being eradicated is being encouraged.

I urge upon the Government to put a stop to this menace and ban this lottery entirely and thus save the poor people from becoming victims to starvation and hardships.

#### (ii) Need to include Patan and Shirala Blocks in Maharashtra in the Revamped Public Distribution System.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): The two blocks of Western

Maharashtra namely Patan and Shirala in my constituency have been experiencing repeated earthquakes. The epicenters are in Koyna Dam and Wama Dam respectively. The recent earthquakes have caused great damage to the property. In Satara district alone, over 8,000 Houses have been damaged. People are sleeping outside. No industrial development will happen as people are afraid to invest there. This is a hilly area which is sustained by People working as Mathadi Kamgars in Bombay. Therefore, with a view to alleviate the hardship of the people, I request the Central Government to include these two blocks in the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) blocks.

#### (iii) Need to enhance allocation of natural gas to Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT (Mandvi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present the Gujarat State is marching ahead in the field of industrial and energy production. The daily consumption of domestic and industrial energy is increasing. The allocation of natural gas from oil wells in Gujarat has reached to an optimum stage. Now the production of natural gas from oil wells in Gujarat is declining. To meet the requirement of natural gas of Gujarat State, there is no other alternative left except allocating natural gas to Gujarat from Bombay High and other marine natural gas reserves. The State Government has already submitted its request seeking supply to gas for its different thermal power projects, i.e. Itrag Allocation 135 Megawat, Kaivzak Bori 600 Megawat, p. Wavanv-2, 615 Megawat, Gandhi Nagar 200 Megawat and Sinaur 1230 Megawat etc. apart from allocation of Tapti gas. But no concrete steps have

[Shri Chhitubhai Gamit]

been taken up by the Central Government in this regard.

Keeping in view the day-to-day increasing demand of energy for Gujarat, I humbly request the Central Government to take an appropriate action in this matter at the earliest.

**(iv) Need for Conversion of Balasore Kharagpur Grand Trunk Road in Orissa to National Highway**

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Balasore-Kharagpur grand trunk road is the shortest road from Bhubaneswar to Calcutta. All the heavy vehicles pass through this causing a serious damage to this road. State Government is not in a position to bear the expenditure for the construction and repair of this road. Though this road is not fit for plying vehicles yet the vehicles pass through this road and consequently face frequent accidents.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take steps for conversion of Balasore-Kharagpur grand trunk road to National Highway and sanction adequate funds for this purpose.

**(v) Need for early completion of Narmada Project with a view to Mitigate acute drinking water problem in Gujarat.**

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an acute

shortage of potable water has been envisaged for ensuing days due to the less rainfall in various parts of the country. There is crisis of potable water in many districts of Gujarat. In various tehsils of Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar district water is made available by tanks even today. This problem will take a serious turn in summer. People have to fetch water from long distances. Nothing has been done to solve the problem of potable water. The whole of Gujarat is looking towards the Narmada project but some or the other problem comes in the way of its completion. So, my submission to the Central Government is that the necessary steps should be taken to complete this project at the earliest so that the problem of drinking water can be solved.

**(vi) Need to Upgrade Gopalpur Port in Orissa to All Weather Direct Berthing Port**

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Government of Orissa have developed one Fair-Weather Lighterage Port at Gopalpur with limited Port facilities which has started handling of cargo since 1990-91. This is located at 260 Km North of Visakhapatnam and 160 Km South of Paradeep, well connected to NH5 by all weather road for only a distance of 5 Km and also to Chhatrapur Railway Station on Howrah-Madras Trunkline by broad gauge rail track for a distance of only 6 Km. In spite of limitation of anchorage port operation, the port is able to handle cargo very efficiently. In the absence of Direct Berthing facilities, Thermal Coal from Talcher Coal Mines is being handled with idle traffic distance of 300 Km and loaded at Visakhapatnam Port. Hence Direct Berthing facilities is required to be provided at Gopalpur Port which will