

will be provided in time to JCI to perform its functions efficiently.

The increase in Minimum Support Price is expected to encourage the farmers to invest more in jute cultivation and raise the production/productivity of raw jute.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no statement on the Statement by the Minister. No questions, please.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

12.34 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) ***Need to have a Halt at Gulabpura in District Bhilwara, Rajasthan for Meenakshi Express Playing between Jaipur and Secunderabad.***

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR (BHILWARA): Gulabpura - a fast growing industrial town of District Bhilwara (Rajasthan) falls on the Ajmer-Khandwa meter gauge line of the Western Railway. In the past, when this town was only a village panchayat, all the fast trains used to stop at Vijay Nagar Station, which is on the other side of river between Gulabpura and Vijaynagar. Vijaynagar was halting point for all fast trains in the past because it was a watering station, but, after introduction of diesel engines there was no necessity of

water required for the engines. Over a period of last 20 years Gulabpura has developed into a fast growing industrial town. About 3 large size textiles mills, few hundred powerlooms, engineering units and above all famous lead zinc Agucha Mines have come in Gulabpura. The population of this town has now increased three-fold from 10,000 to 35,000 and the passengers from this town have to go to distant stations of Ratlam, Indore and Khandwa very frequently. This point was referred by me in the meeting with the General Manager, Western Railway in the past and looking to the importance of Gulabpura station, it was decided that Meenakshi Express (Jaipur to Secunderabad) will be stopping both ways at Gulabpura station. It is regretted that this decision has not so far been implemented which has given rise to discontentment among the people of this area.

I would, therefore, request the Government to ask the Railway Board to arrange for a halt of the Meenakshi Express at Gulabpura station both ways.

[Translation]

- (ii) ***Need to provide more Financial Assistance to State Government of Rajasthan to cope with acute Drinking Water Problem in Adivasi Dominated Areas of Rajasthan.***

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumbar): Sir, the drought relief works are not adequate in Rajasthan. I have returned from my constituency only today. The number of labourers engaged on in drought relief work is negligible. The drought relief works have not been started in many panchayats.