

can do without the lunch hour. If we have to facilitate the starting of the Private Members' Business on time, I think the House can continue without any lunch break. Now, it is 3.30 p.m. and we have to take up the Private Members' Business.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Matters under Rule 377 may please be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 will be allowed. Afterwards private members will be taken up, there is a little time left for it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M.SAYEED) : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I would like to submit that we may pass the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill which has already been passed in the other House.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. In this House, I should not be taken by surprise in this way.

SHRI P.M.SAYEED: There is only a small amendment to be done in a single section.

MR. SPEAKER: Before allowing you, I should understand what is there. If it were really of a technical nature, I would have agreed. But I had to apply my mind. Had you talked to me beforehand, I would have applied my mind. That is a different thing.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Yesterday, the situation was critical, that is why we have done this, it is not possible every day.

HON. SPEAKER: This is his difficulty but even then he does not want to do it.

[English]

15.30 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) NEED TO GRANT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO KARWAFI MEDIUM IRRIGATION PROJECT IN GADCHIROLI DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (CHANDRAPUR): Sir, various irrigation projects of Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra are awaiting clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. One such project awaiting clearance is Karwafi Medium irrigation project in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra. Near about 770.25 hectares of forest land is involved in this project. The project proposals have been submitted to Government of India by Government of Maharashtra. This project has been administratively approved by Government of India with the help of the World Bank. Government of Maharashtra have spent nearly three crores of rupees till 1984 for the construction of buildings, approach roads and foundation of the project. Work has been stopped for want of Environmental clearance. Gadchiroli is a tribal district with 68% forest cover.

15.31 hrs

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR)

I urge upon Minister of Environment and Forests to examine this project from all angles and take necessary steps for clearance for this project in the naxalite affected areas.

- (ii) NEED TO CELEBRATE 3RD CENTENARY OF CREATION OF THE ORDER OF KHALSA BY GURU GOBIND SINGH AS THE 'YEAR OF HUMAN SPIRIT'

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, it was in the year 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh established the Order of Khalsa. He emphasised on the oneness of all humanity highlighting the universality of the human spirit. The completion of the third centenary of the major event would obviously generate great enthusiasm in India and abroad. It will only add to the richness of India's diversity and install greater inter-faith understanding if the year 1999 is celebrated as the "Year of the Human Spirit". This would help make a new beginning in the relationship of the Sikh community with people of other faiths, transcending sectarian and any other narrow consideration.

I urge the Government to set up a National Committee for the purpose associating important national figures and also to approach the United Nations to observe the year as the "Year of the Human Spirit".

- (iii) NEED FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT OF COMPENSATION CLAIMS OF FARMERS WHOSE LAND WAS ACQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FIRING RANGE AT MAHAJAN TOWN IN BIKANER, RAJASTHAN.

[Translation]

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thirty four villages were get vacated when a firing range was constructed in Mahajan city of Rajasthan. The Farmers of these villages were given agricultural land in lieu of agricultural land and those people who wanted compensation for residential area were given the compensation for that but due to the lapses on the part of officers some agriculturists could still not covered and they were neither given cultivable land nor compensation for their cultivable land. These farmers are still running from pillar to post for compensation for their agricultural and residential land for the last 10-15 years.

Similarly, no compensation has been paid for school buildings, wells and agricultural land has not been paid so far.

We urge upon the Government to get it investigated and then the farmers should be paid compensation promptly by issuing order to this effect immediately.

- (iv) NEED TO PROVIDE BETTER TELECOM FACILITIES TO MAYURBHANJ IN ORISSA

[English]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj): Sir, Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak revenue districts are

at present under the jurisdiction of Balasore telecom district with Balasore as headquarters. As a result, the subscribers of Mayurbhanj districts from different corners ranging from 60 to 250 kms. away from Balasore, face much inconvenience and have to incur large expenditure to get justice in time from headquarters office, irrespective of the fact that Mayurbhanj contributes more revenue than Balasore.

As Mayurbhanj is a border district connected with the important States viz Bihar and West Bengal, large number of people from these two States and from Orissa also come to Mayurbhanj for trade, employment, medical treatment or as tourists. They have to face a lot of problems in the absence of separate telecom district at Mayurbhanj.

To avoid the inconvenience to a large number of subscribers and tourists, it is quite justified and need of the hour to create a separate telecom district for Mayurbhanj with its headquarters at BARIPADA immediately. This has also been justified by the department of Telecom, Balasore but no action has been taken so far.

[Translation]

- (v) NEED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF NARMADA SAGAR YOJNA OF MADHYA PRADESH.

*DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, the Narmada Sagar Project should immediately be accorded approval and implemented. 'Narmada Sagar Project' is an important project for the development of Narmada Valley. This project will generate more than one thousand megawatt electricity and increase the irrigation capacity by one lakh acres. The water to be obtained through this project could be used in Aunkareshwan, Maheswar and Sardar Sarovar project to generate power and augment irrigation capacity. This projects is going to benefit Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra from the point of view of electricity and irrigation.

This big project is a project of national importance. The Madhya Pradesh Government had submitted this project to the Cental Government in March, 1994 for their approval. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to approve this project of national importance and implement it.

At the same time, I also urge upon the Central Government to start the work of linking Narmada-Shipra in Malvanchal in Madhya Pradesh alongwith this project so as to raise their declining water level, conserve drinking water, maintain its adequate supply and to create more irrigation capacity.

- (vi) NEED TO SET UP OIL DEPOTS IN BAREILLY DISTRICT (UTTAR PRADESH) TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO THE DISPLACED FARMERS WHOSE LAND WAS ACQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Sir, approval was given for constructing oil depots for Indian oil, Bharat and Hindustan oil at Bareilly district in U.P. Land of agriculturists was acquired for constructing this depot, but so far, the construction work has not been started following which there is discontentment among the citizens of the region. Assurance was given to the agriculturists where land was approved to be acquired that at least one member of their family will be provided job in the corporation. But the factual position is that their land has slipped out of their hand and they have not been given job opportunity in lieu of that. Consequently, these people are driven to starvation death. Land was their only source of livelihood and they have been deprived of this as well.

I urge upon the Government that those agriculturists whose land has been acquired in Aonla and Bareilly districts should be provided with job opportunity for atleast one member of his family by completing the construction of depot so that these agriculturists could be saved for the present situation.

- (vii) NEED TO RELEASE NECESSARY FUNDS TO NATIONAL JUTE MARKETING CORPORATION (NJMC) TO ENABLE IT TO REPAY OUTSTANDING DUES TO COOPERATIVE MARKETING SOCIETIES IN NADIA AND SOME OTHER PARTS IN WEST BENGAL

([English])

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY (Krishnagar): The national Jute Marketing Corporation which purchases raw jute from different cooperative marketing societies situated in Nadia and some other districts of West Bengal has not been paying the prices. As a result lakhs of rupees have fallen in arrears and the existence of the societies is at stake. The societies supplied raw jute by directly purchasing it from the cultivators by taking loans from banks. But due to non-payment of dues by National Jute Marketing Corporation it has become almost impossible for the societies to repay the Bank loans with interest and even to make payment of salary of their employees. The jute cultivators have also been put to an extremely difficult situation. The plea of the National Jute Marketing Corporation is that the Central Government has not been making any allotment to them for the purpose.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to provide necessary funds to the National Jute Marketing Corporation immediately so that payment of all the outstanding dues with interest may be made to the societies.

- (viii) NEED TO DECLARE SUPPORT PRICE OF COCONUT

[English]

SHRI P.C.THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Coconut