

submerged in water and the life of the people is thrown out to year. The Government should treat it as a human problem and provide relief and succour to the people and a statement to that effect should also be made in the House.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Jhanjharpur Kamla Balan river is causing havoc in Darbhanga, Samastipur and Madhubani. The rivers flow from Nepal and enter Bihar causing floods, bringing with them misery and loss of life and property for the people of the affected areas. Bihar Government is carrying relief work within its own resources and capacity but without the Central assistance these relief measures will not be very effective. I visited the flood affected areas and found that the situation is worse than even 1987. The roads are completely damaged and there are no means of communications between various areas. The Central Government should take up the relief work on war footing in Bihar to bring about normalcy.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : The hon. members may be aware that about 2-3 days back a delegation from Bihar comprising irrigation and P.W.D. Minister and some officers had visited Delhi and we discussed a number of subjects. In that meeting, no such question about North Bihar was raised.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It was a meeting of the Civil administration.

[English]

MR. DEPT. SPEAKER : Are you to violate the rules of the House? It is allowed only under extraordinary circumstances. If it is misused, I think anybody can raise objection and the Chair will be helpless in answering that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV : Some very important issues have been raised here, whether they relate to flow of rivers in to North Bihar from Nepal or the management of rivers in coordination with Nepal. The dam has also suffered damage. The people of Bihar should discuss the matter with the concerned Minister. I personally feel, relief measures in the flood affected areas should be our first priority. I do not know what the Bihar Government is doing. Neither have they approached us. But the Centre will extend all possible assistance which is its pious duty.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is under extraordinary circumstances, this issue, being a very important one, is allowed to be raised in the unscheduled hour and it cannot be taken as a precedent all the time.

Now, we take up Matters under Rule 377.

13.32 hrs

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 /

#### (I) Need to sanction Jadidaha Irrigation Project in Mangovindapur in Mayurbhanj District, Orissa

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Sir, the proposal of irrigation project named Jadidaha in Mangovindapur G.P. under Badsahi block in Mayurbhanj district, Orissa, needs immediate consideration of the Union Government. Nearly 16 G.P. fully and 20 GPs partly of Badsahi, Khunta-I and G.B. Block mostly inhabited by the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward poor cultivators will be benefited by this project. There is no other irrigation facility for them to cultivate their land. The proposal was put up several times by the State Government to the Union Government for sanction under either Centrally sponsored scheme or foreign aid scheme. In order to redress the grievances of the poor cultivators, I request the Central Government to look into it.

#### (II) Need to Fix Price of Silk Cocoon at Rs. 150/- per KG.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Sir, Karnataka produces more than 80 per cent of the country's total production of silk. Out of this, more than 30 per cent comes from Kolar district. Most of the families residing in Kolar district are dependent upon sericulture. The farmers, weavers and reelers are facing a very tough situation in the State, because of the frequent fluctuations in the prices of silk.

The import of a large quantity of silk from China has affected the domestic silk industry to a very large extent.

I have made several representations to the Government in this regard. In fact, the hon. Minister of Textiles was kind enough to visit Karnataka to take of the situation and some relief has been given to the silk industry. But no concrete measures have been taken to stabilize the prices of silk in the country, particularly in Karnataka.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to look into the matter immediately and to fix the price of Silk Cocoon between Rs. 125/- and Rs. 150/- per kilogram, in consultation with the Sericulture Department of the State Government, to protect the farmers, reelers and weavers.

The World Bank has provided an assistance of Rs. 550 crores for the development of Sericulture to the Central Silk Board. Unfortunately, a major chunk of this amount has been utilised for Establishment expenditure instead of encouraging research and development in the field. I urge upon the Government to divert the funds for research and development activities immediately.

#### (III) Need to Open a Regional Provident Fund Office at Connanore, Kerala

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Connanore) :