

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 un-scheduled 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) :

Sir, the best and the largest number of **beedi** manufacturing units of Kerala are located in Connanore and there is therefore a high concentration of beedi workers in this area, next to which are the hundreds of textile workers both handloom and powerloom. There are in all more than a lakh provident fund subscribers in Cannanore and Kasargod districts.

These poor workers are being put to untold difficulties in having to go all the way to the Calicut Provident Office, more than hundred Kms. away from Connanore. At times they have to make several visits before they get their claims cleared.

No doubt the stipulated distance between two Provident Fund Offices is 250 kms. But there is also the stipulation that there should be at least 75,000 subscribers in the area. This latter requirement is amply complied with in Connanore area where the number of subscribers exceed 1,15,000. This more than compensates the shortage in distance.

I also wish to mention here that the Government had under similar circumstances, opened Provident Fund offices at distances less than 150 kms. in some districts in the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

A temporary arrangement by holding a Camp of the Provident Fund Officers at Connanore once in three months or even once every months will not enable the thousands of employees to represent their matters before the Provident Fund Authorities. For this a full-fledged office is essential.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to open a Regional Provident Fund Office at Connanore at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Birbal—not present.

Shri Kashiram Rana—not present.

Shri Chinmayanand Swami—Not present.

Shri Sivaji Patnaik.

(iv) Need to Include Saara and Khatla Seats in Orissa in the SC/ST Lists

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, the tribal sect of SAARA is not mentioned in the list of Scheduled Tribe in Orissa. It is mentioned as SAHARA whereas there is no such Tribe as Sahara in Orissa. Sometimes SAARA is pronounced as Sahara. SABARA and SAURA which are mentioned as Scheduled Tribe are the same as SAARA. In the Revenue districts of Khurda, Nayagarh and Cuttack the SAARA population is about 2 lakhs but as SAARA is not mentioned in the Scheduled Tribe list they are deprived of the benefits available for Scheduled Tribe people. As a result discontentment and anger is growing amongst them. This should be appropriately corrected so that they can get the benefits they deserve.

Similarly, a Scheduled Caste fishing community known as KHATIA has been recorded as Katia whereas

the Khatia sect of Scheduled Caste fisherman is deprived from the benefits. This also needs to be corrected immediately.

I, urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. S.P. Yadav—Not present.

(v) Need to Re-construct the old Bridge at Kuzhitheral across the Thamparavarani river on the Trivandrum—Kanyakumari National Highway.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Bridge at Kuzhitheral across the Thamparavarani river in the Trivandrum-Kanyakumari National Highway is in a dilapidated condition. It cannot withstand the increasing passenger and vehicular traffic and it may collapse at any moment. It is one of the oldest bridge in the country put up about the year 1969. The deteriorating condition of the bridge is repeatedly brought to the notice of the authorities. The Chief Engineer, Madras who inspected the bridge some years back, realising the dangerous condition of the bridge, provided supporting angular pillars to it. But subsequent heavy rains and floods in the river completely washed away the angular pillars and caused damages to the basement of the original pillars. Moreover, there are leakages through the large number of cracks found in the bridge. The side walls of the bridge are also damaged. It is long overdue to re-construct and widen this very busy and important road connecting the southernmost part of the land. Delay would cause collapse and consequence of the same would be disastrous.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to re-construct and widen this old bridge.

(vi) Need to Connect Ajmer in Rajasthan By Air.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Ajmer is in the heart of Rajasthan. It has a significant and special position in the map of India from cultural, historical, educational, religious and tourism point of view. Lakhs of visitors flock to this city from other parts of the country and foreign countries to visit Tirathraj Pushkar and the Dargah of Khwaja Sahab. It's distinguished educational institutions attract thousands of students from various parts of the country and the neighbouring countries as well. Nasirabad contonment and Beawar, Kishangarh industrial townships are the other distinguished spots in Ajmer. Thousands of tourists from all parts of the world visit—Ajmer, Pushkar to see prominent historical and religious places here every year. But they are put to a lot of inconvenience in the absence of an aerodrome which is also a big hurdle in the all round development of Ajmer. In spite of several assurances, Ajmer has not been brought in the air map of India. We urge the Union Government to provide an aerodrome in Ajmer at the spot specified by the Airport Authority after carrying out a survey.