

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

15.40 hrs.

- (i) *Need to sanction Adequate Funds for Early completion of upper tapti irrigation project.*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: (Khandwa) : There is an agreement between the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for joint construction of three phase Upper Tapti project to provide irrigation facility to both the States.

The first phase of this project has been completed. No concrete steps have been taken for completion of rest of two phases. The entire project involves an outlay of Rs. 303.40 crore. Madhya Pradesh has to bear Rs. 140.20 crore, while Maharashtra is to pay Rs. 163 crore. The implementation of this project would bring 116727 acre land under irrigation in Madhya Pradesh and 149572 are land in Maharashtra. It also provides for generation of 4.64 mega watt electricity.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to get the second and third phases of this project completed without delay so that the farmers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are benefited.

- (ii) *Need to provide better telecommunication facilities in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra*

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): Sir, Gadchiroli is a tribal district of Maharashtra. It is bordering Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This district is predominantly inhabited by Maria, Gonds and other Scheduled Tribes. Area wise, this is the fourth biggest district in Maharashtra having 12 talukas and 60 per cent forest cover. Gadchiroli city which is the district headquarter is not connected with 10 out of 12 talukas because of poor infrastructure and due to lack of maintenance work of telephone department. This district is a base of naxalite activities and remains cut off for three to four months every year from the rest of the country. Telecommunication is the only medium for the people to get in touch with others. In such circumstances, it is indispensable to improve the telecommunication facilities in this area not only for day-to-day administration work but also for combating naxalite activities. Satellite special communication system is essential for this area. During recent Assembly elections, the hot lines provided did not work throughout the electioneering period.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government of

India to take urgent steps for providing basic telephone facilities to this district at least to get in touch with the taluka places.

- (iii) *Need to explore the possibility of reviving Hyderabad Visakhapatnam-Jeypore-Bhubaneswar Air Flight*

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Sir, about five years back, there was a Dornier Flight operating from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar via Visakhapatnam and Jeypore and returning back in the evening to Hyderabad to provide a link with the Delhi flights from Bhubaneswar to Hyderabad. Now, the Vayudoot flight noted above has been withdrawn due to some reason or the other and the Government is not likely to revive the same. If any private party is interested to run Vayudoot flight on this line, it will be very helpful for the passengers travelling by air from Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Jeypore to catch the Delhi flights from Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar on the same day. Therefore, I draw the attention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism to engage one of the private parties to revive the flight which was there before five years so that the passengers may travel by air and avail the flights to Delhi on the same day.

- (iv) *Need to solve acute drinking water problem in Hyderabad and Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh*

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Sir, the water problem in the State Capital of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is very serious. The water supply arrangement initially made in 1932 to cater to the needs of the then population of seven lakhs has not been increased further, even though the population has increased to 50 lakhs. The major sources of water, namely, Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar have totally dried up the present alternative days of water supply for only one hour and is wholly depended on Manjira.

The only permanent solution to acute drinking water problem is Krishna water diversion project. For this project, Rs. 680 crores are needed. Andhra Pradesh Government has not been able to accomplish the task due to financial crunch. The Union Government has given clearance for the Krishna water diversion project.

The condition laid by the World Bank to aid the Hyderabad and Secunderabad water project is not feasible and the condition cannot be met easily as it will take several years. The idea of giving the project to private hands has its own inherent and attending dangers. This is likely to increase water rates to three-fold or four-fold causing hardship to common man. In view of the serious nature for drinking water problem, I demand the honourable Prime Minister to treat this project as national project and finance the same through the Central Government.