

Speaker has accepted his resignation with effect from 6th December, 1994.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again after one hour.

14.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till ten minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirteen minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. speaker, Sir, we appeal to the Government through you that even at this stage wherein the Government has moved from a good time to a fairly vague time about the middle of the Session, even if the Government were to specify a reasonable date by which this revised, wholly unsatisfactory revision, no doubt, whatever they are doing about this ATR, if they give us a specific enough date, then there are so many other issues that worry this House and we would like to pull the Government on those other issues also. The Government, by maintaining this kind of obstinate silence and lack of co-operation, is trying to get out of it. We request you to please extract a date from the Government.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): I hope, the hon. Member will revise his opinion about the nature of the ATR that is coming, as unsatisfactory. A reasonable leader like Shri Jaswant Singh Ji, to call a document as unsatisfactory without looking at it, is a little surprising. We will try and make it as satisfactory as possible. As far as the date is concerned, we shall try and present this modified Supplementary ATR by not later than 20th of this month.

15.15 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Reports

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

15.16-1/2

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Reports

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways (1994-95):

(1) Seventh Report on Ministry of Railways—'Passenger Amenities.' and

(Action taken by Government on the recommendation/ observations contained in the First Report of Standing Committee on Railways).

(2) Eighth report on Ministry of Railways — 'Doubling of Railway Lines and Metro Railways Project in Calcutta'.

(Action taken by Government on the recommendation/ observations contained in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Railways).

(3) Ninth Report on Ministry of Railways — 'Opening of New lines on Indian Railways'.

(Action taken by Government on the recommendation/ observations contained in the Fourth Report of Standing Committee on Railways).

(4) Tenth Report on Ministry of Railways 'Suburban Railways.'

(Action taken by Government on the recommendation/ observations contained in the Fifth Report of Standing Committee on Railways).

15.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to convert Palakkad Unit of the Instrumentation Company Ltd. in Kerala into an Independent unit

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (PALGHAT): The Palakkad unit of the Instrumentation Company Limited has been declared a sick unit along with the other units of the Company. Process has already been on under the Industrial Development Bank of India to rejuvenate the unit. It is a fact that the other units of the Company have been running at loss. However, the Palakkad unit has been making profit through all the years. In spite of this, the Palakkad unit is placed at par with the other loss-making units and included in the 'Revival Plans' of the Company. This is nothing but sheer injustice done to the active and energetic labourers employed in the Palakkad unit. These labourers should not be made to pay for the ineptitude of the other units. Palakkad unit does not require any revival plans. It is in perfect condition and fully operations.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to convert Palakkad unit into an independent unit with right to self-determination.

(ii) Need to increase Statutory Minimum price of Sugarcane

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL (CUDDALORE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the area under sugarcane crop has been

*Translation of the matter, originally raised in Malayalam.

declining year after year and consequently the production of sugar has been decelerating. The decline in sugar production was of about one million tonne during the year 1993-94 as compared to that of 1992-93 and 3.5 million tonne as compared with the production of 1991-92. The gap between the demand and supply of sugar has been widening and consequently the Government had to import sugar to meet the demand. Hence, it is imperative to maximise the production of cane.

The main reason for the deceleration of the area of sugarcane cultivation is that sugarcane cultivators have not been paid remunerative price for their produce.

The sugarcane cultivators have been demanding remunerative price for sugarcane and the factories have been rejecting their demand. In Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, the sugarcane cultivators have stopped supply of sugarcane to the E.I.D. Parry Sugar Factory of Nellikuppam by demanding price at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal. The factory have rejected their claim relying on the statutory minimum price fixed by the Government of India.

The demand of the sugarcane cultivators is genuine.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to increase the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane to the level of Rs. 75/- per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(iii) Need to take Adequate steps to check air Pollution in the National Capital Territory of Delhi

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (BERHAMPUR): Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

The entire city of Delhi due to alarming rise in air, water and noise pollution, has been hit by serious health hazards. While all kind of pollution has affected the healthy life of denizens of the city, air pollution has assumed grave dimensions; major sources of this pollution are vehicles, thermal power plants, industries and domestic coal burning. An estimated 2000 metric tonnes of pollutants are emitted in the atmosphere everyday in Delhi. As high as 1063 metric tonnes of carbon monoxide are emitted daily, followed by nitrogen dioxide 323, hydrocarbon 320 and sulphur dioxide 179 metric tonnes, according to a report.

No concrete steps are being taken to check air pollution in Delhi. Most of the vehicles plying in the city particularly DTC buses, do not observe any pollution control norms, resulting in increase in pollution in entire Delhi. Unless immediate steps are taken to check the pollution, the inhabitants of the city may fall prey to serious diseases like asthma, cancer, T.B. etc.

I request the Central Government to take adequate steps to check air pollution in Delhi expeditiously.

(iv) Need to ensure early supply of diesel for use of farmers in Moradabad-Bareilly and Kumaon regions in U.P.

(Translation)

Shri Rajendar Prasad Sharma (Rampur) : Sir, the farmers of Moradabad-Bareilly and Rampur, Moradabad, Bareilly and Nainital districts of Kumaon Mandal in Uttar Pradesh are facing grave crisis for sowing rabi crops due

to acute shortage of diesel for the last one month. Since the supply of diesel to Bareilly and Moradabad depot has been stopped, the diesel pumps have almost dried up. No improvement has been made in this regard even after being written to the Government. It is learnt that the Ministry of Petroleum holds the railway department responsible for this shortage. In such a condition the farmers are distressed because it is likely to affect the forthcoming crops badly. The shortage of water in the last stage of the monsoon has already affected agriculture. In the wake of imposition of heavy additional tax on diesel by the Government of Uttar Pradesh the difference between the rates of diesel in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have widened immensely. It has resulted in the acute shortage of diesel in U.P.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to supply diesel immediately to meet this grave situation and to order a thorough enquiry into the main reasons of the above crisis.

(v) Need for early clearance to Adhabara Flood Control Project of Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sitamarhi district bordering Nepal is the most backward district in Bihar. Crops on considerable portion of this area are destroyed and life and property ruined due to flood every year for want of proper reservoir and embankment on Andhabara group of rivers. The Government of Bihar had five years ago sent a proposal to the Central Government for the construction of Adhabara Flood Control Scheme Phase I, Adhabara Flood Control Scheme, Phase II and Andhabara Flood Control Scheme, Phase III alongwith the proposal of three schemes to construct embankments. The Adhabara Flood Control Schemes Phase I is pending with the Planning Commission. Only after the clearance is given to the above schemes, the construction of proposed embankments and waterways would be taken up.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to ask the Planning Commission to clear the schemes for Adhabara Flood Control Scheme, Phase I immediately.

[English]

(vi) Need to provide Financial Assistance to State Government of West Bengal for opening Training centres for the Development of clay handicraft of Krishnanagar

SHRI AJOY MUKHPADYAY (Krishnanagar): Sir, I would like to raise the following matter of public importance under Rule 377.

The clay handicraft of Krishnanagar in West Bengal is famous for its high degree of craftsmanship. This is one of the oldest cottage industries of the country, which earns some foreign exchange also. But the industry is gradually on decline for want of proper attention.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to

see that necessary financial assistance is given to the State Government for opening training centres and also to take effective steps for expansion of marketing facilities, both within the country and abroad.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up Item No. 14. I think this was being discussed in the last session.

15.28 hrs.

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF TWENTY-EIGHTH AND TWENTY-NINTH REPORT OF THE ERSTWHILE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES AND FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH AND EIGHTH REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an issue which has today taken the form of a national problem.

Sir, in view of the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it was the wish of all these people that a separate Ministry should be created by the Union Government to eradicate this deep rooted problem.

5.30 hrs.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE IN THE CHAIR

Only then their problems can be resolved. Earlier the Ministry of Home Affairs, first of all, used to look into the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Then a demand was raised that there should be a separate Ministry for this purpose. Thereafter, this Department was transferred under the Ministry of Welfare. It resulted in much labour but little gain. There used to be Commissioners in the Ministry of Home.

Their work was to prepare the Reports whole year and whatever problems were reported to them, discussions were held in the house every year on those reports and the people used to come to know of it. However, the painful aspect of this is that in regard to these classes of people only six Reports have been presented in the House during the last twelve years. Out of them, two Reports belonged to the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and four Reports to the Ministry of Welfare. We were of the view that the Government would look into it seriously and resolve the problem of Dalits which has now become a national problem. But in the intermittent period, we have observed that the Government is not serious about resolving the problems of these classes of people. That is why they have been put under such a Department where the situation is that we are able to discuss these six Reports in this House only after a gap of twelve years. Further, only six hours have been allotted for the discussion on these Reports. It appears from this as if we are only completing the formality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we go deeply, we would find that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes are facing many problems and among them, economic problem is the main problem. They are required to be given loan and the facilities for self-employment. The economic problem is related to the Ministry of Finance and the banks. It has nothing to do with the Ministry of Welfare. The nation is going to complete fifty years of its independence in the next two years but these people do not have a house to live in and the land to cultivate. So far as the problem of land is concerned, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Development. Further, as regards self-employment or setting up a small industry, the Ministry of Welfare has nothing to do. The another problem is education which comes under the Department of Education. It seems to me as if the Ministry of Welfare is performing like a post office only, from where the letters are despatched to other Departments or the Ministries. This Ministry has no powers of its own, by virtue of which it could resolve their problems. Nobody takes it seriously that their problems should be resolved. As a result the problems of these classes of people are multiplying. For example, there is the problem of allotment of land to them. This problem is related to the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and it is their responsibility how to allot them land. Further, the problems of personnel training, appointment or promotion are concerned with every Department or the Ministry. However the Ministry of Welfare is not at all concerned with these. If one goes through the Report, one finds that no figures have been given about the number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who became literate, the number of illiterate people earlier, the number of people given promotion, the number of people given employment etc. It seems as if the Government is only completing the formality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, unless the Ministry of Welfare is given adequate powers, the problems cannot be resolved. As everybody knows, these classes of people have been given special rights in the constitution. Even after 44 years when the Constitution came into effect, no figures in regard to Class-I officers have been given, whereas we are informed here that there is a provision of 6.5 percent reservation for class-I, 8 percent for class II, 12 percent for class-III and 15 percent for Class-IV. However, the backlog is still there and no attention is being paid to clear it. If the Union Government writes to the State Governments, we do not know about the response of the State Governments thereto. The Ministry of Welfare does not come in between. Therefore, I would like to submit that until a separate and powerful Ministry is created for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there will be no sight of any solution to their problems. Earlier, the Commissioner in the Ministry of Home Affairs used to write to the State Governments and the matter was taken seriously by them. However, today if the Ministry of welfare asks for any information, it does not receive any response thereto. That is why, I am saying that this Ministry is toothless. It has been observed that neither special attention is paid towards the education of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes nor they are allotted land. Even if they are allotted land, they do not get its possession and still no attention is being paid towards this. This Report also does not indicate if any effort is being