

14.55 Hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Matters Under Rule 377

Shri Uttamrao Patil - not present. Dr. K.S. Bhoi.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

i) Need to declare road from Gopalpur to Raipur as National Highway

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): The proposal for declaring the inter-State road connecting Orissa and Madhya Pradesh from Gopalpur to Raipur via Bolangir, Padampur and Khariat as National highway has been pending since long. This road caters to the need of at least half-a-dozen districts in Orissa. The people of Southern and Western Orissa take this direct route for going to Raipur, Bilaspur, Nagpur and Bombay. Several people of Andhra Pradesh on the one side and Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra on the other side.

The proposal to declare this road as National Highway was mooted more than a decade ago when the National Road Congress has its conference at Bhubaneswar. Though the Union Government had promised to do the needful it has not yet been done on the plea of financial constraints. Since the Union Government has been paying attention to develop roads in the backward areas, this project should be considered on priority. As this road passes through backward areas, the demand of the State Government and the people be fulfilled and the road from Gopalpur to Raipur be declared as the National Highway without any further delay.

(ii) Need to start the Krishna Segment of the NRAP on an emergency basis

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): The Krishna river stretch between Karad and Sangli in Maharashtra is highly polluted. Effluents from sugar mills and city on sewage and are

discharged into the river. With increasing pollution, the problem has become acute. During January and February, 1993, Karad city had a major outbreak of jaundice and other water borne diseases. The epidemic claimed the lives of nearly twenty people. Over 2,000 people who got infection are still suffering from the disease. The epidemic is still not over.

This segment of Krishna River is included in the National River Action Plan, but the Plan has not yet started. It is unfortunate that the entire funding under the Ganga Action Plan Phase 2, The Yamuna Plan and Gomati Plan is spent in the three Northern States, while all other States continue to suffer from grave pollution of their rivers, and drinking water sources.

I request the Central Government to start the Krishna segment of the NRAP on an emergency basis, without waiting for other formalities, in order to avoid potential deaths due to recurrence of major epidemics.

15.00 Hrs.

(iii) Need to improve transport facilities in Sundergarh District, Orissa for all round development of the region

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh): I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of the industries established in the remote tribal belt of Eastern India. There has been lot of disparity in matters of facilities between the urban and the rural-based industries. The Eastern states dominated by tribal population and rich in mineral resources, in the recent past have witnessed rapid industrialisation. Besides some major public undertakings like Rourkela Steel Plant, Bhilai Bokaro Steel Plant and many private undertakings, big and small, have come in the region. But in all other fronts, the region has been denied other facilities. Cities like Rourkela and Tatanagar has been deprived of air service facilities. The conditions of the national Highways in this region are the worst, affecting the transport

[Kumari Frida Topno]

facilities adversely. The road construction of Bonai sub-division, known for its largest deposit of iron ore, Gopalpur, largest deposit of coal in Asia and Purnapani deposit of dolomite stone, all in Sundargarh district of Orissa, are the worst. These areas are not covered by telephone system too. These areas are thus not exposed to open market as transport facilities are not adequate. Hence the region is not able to attract private entrepreneurs for setting up of new industries.

I therefore, request the Central Government to improve transport facilities in Sundargarh district, Orissa for the all round development of the region.

(iv) Need to Prescribe a procedure to enquire Speedy relief to the innocent and helpless dependents of victims of Bomb Blasts in Mumbai (Bombay)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): During the recent chain of bomb blasts on 12 March in Mumbai (Bombay), a large number of innocent citizens lost their lives. The blasts were so severe that many victims not only lost their lives but even bodies. The dead bodies were so mutilated, burnt or charred that these could not be identified. In addition, some bodies totally 'disappeared' presumably due to generation of very high temperature.

The family members and the dependents are thus unable to prove the death or produce death certificates. Death certificate being the primary evidence of death, the dependents cannot claim a compensation announced by the Government or Life Insurance Corporation or Pension or gratuity or Provident Fund dues or any other property of the deceased. Hence it is extremely necessary to prescribe an appropriate procedure to avoid hardships to the dependents of the blast victims.

I request the Prime Minister to direct the

Departments concerned to immediately study the special situation and prescribe a procedure to ensure speedy relief to the innocent and hapless dependents of victims of the bomb blasts.

(v) Need to provide medical treatment to Dr. Vishist Narayan Singh the renowned mathematician, at Government cost

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Vishist Narayan Singh is a renowned mathematician of our country who is called the successor of Aryabhatta. It is said that in the field of mathematics, after Ramanujam, he spread our country's name all over the world. But due to some reasons, he suffered some mental ailment and was missing since August 1989. Recently, he was traced in Chhapra town of Bihar wondering like a beggar. Even now his family members are not able to provide him medical treatment due to financial constraints. The Bihar Government has already announced that it would bear all the expenses on the psychiatric treatment of Dr. Singh, but he is the pride of the entire country and not of Bihar alone. He has brought laurels to our country in the entire world.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government of India that it should bear all the expenses on his medical treatment and if necessary, he should be sent abroad for treatment.

vi) Need to release more funds for North Bengal University Library

[*English*]

JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the acute crisis of funds in the North Bengal University Library that caters to higher education in all the undergraduate colleges of six districts of North Bengal and of Sikkim. The University itself and