

13.26 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to take steps for removal of the anomalies in the gradation of Coal and revision of royalty particularly in respect of Orissa State**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, State of Orissa has been adversely affected due to some anomalies in the gradation of coal during last fixation of royalty by Union Government. Emphasis laid on grade ignoring the importance of power-grade coal further affects the interests of Orissa. Thus, Orissa loses heavily on account of coal royalty—the amount it gets now as coal royalty allegedly being less than what it was getting earlier as cess.

I, therefore, request Central Government to take steps for removal of the anomalies in this gradation of coal and amend the relevant law so as to go for revision of royalty without any delay on the basis of calorific value of coal giving due weightage to power-grade. Further, allocation of a sizeable portion of the coal royalty for carrying on various developmental schemes in the coal belt with emphasis on drinking water, communication, education, health and environment programmes should be ensured.

- (ii) **Need to ensure that the programmes of All India Radio Vilaspur-Madhya Pradesh are audible in ordinary Radio sets**

[Translation]

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE (Vilaspur): With the present technical system the programmes of All India Radio Vilaspur, Madhya Pradesh are not received in the neighbouring areas. The programmes of this Kendra can only be received by the radio sets having F.M. Band. As a result, the people living in these areas are being deprived of the benefits of official announce-

ments as well as other informative programmes.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to develop such technique in All India Radio, Vilaspur so that the programmes could be received by ordinary radio sets.

- (iii) **Need to set up a F.M. Radio Station at Mandala, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandala): Information and broadcasting service is a powerful medium for the development of art, literature, culture and also for the social, economic and regional development. With this end in view, the Government have started a scheme for opening a Akashwani Kendra in every district. Under this scheme Akashwani Kendras in all neighbouring districts around Mandala have been opened. Mandala is predominantly an Adivasi area but no Akashwani Kendra has been set up there so far. As a result, there is no out let for the talent of new and upcoming literators and artists of that area.

Therefore, I humbly request the Central Government to immediately set up a F.M. radio station in Mandala.

- (iv) **Need for construction of Bridges on certain rivers in Sidhartha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): The newly formed district of Sidhartha Nagar, which was earlier a part of Basti District has its borders with Nepal. This district is the most backward district and is included amongst Industrially Backward Districts. Since this district shares border with Nepal, many rivers and nullahs flow through this district. But in the absence of bridges on rivers. Transportation is interrupted. Therefore, I request the Central Government that bridges should be constructed at Singarjot on Rapti river, at Chandradeep Ghat on Kwano river, at Hurlapur Ghat on Banganga, at Uska bazaar and Sohas on Purna river so that this district can be linked with other districts.