

14.26 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

*[English]***(I) Need to take steps for protecting-housing-plant species, used in Ayurvedic medicines, from extinction.**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nearly 1500 flowering plant species many of them of great medicinal value are facing extinction. Among them, the most important medical plants and the diseases for which they are used are Sarpagandha (hypertension), Jatamangi (mental disorder), Guggulu (rhumatoid arthritis), Ketuki (liver disorder), Chairayata (fever), Atis (abdominal trouble) and Marimba (eye infection). At least 500 medicinal plants are used in preparation of Ayurvedic medicines.

In the process of collection, these plants are uprooted and get no chance to regenerate, with the result they are getting extinct. Sincere and serious efforts by various research institutions, forest departments, agricultural universities and other Government departments are required to conserve these plants and popularise their cultivation. The major hurdle in popularising medicinal plants is the low and fluctuating prices of crude drugs and the non-availability of planting.

I urge upon the Central Government to set up medicinal gardens at different levels and making arrangements for marketing of crude drugs through cooperative societies; which may be formed separately for this purpose.

*[Translation]***(ii) Need for Doubling of Railway line between Surat and Bhusawal***[Translation]*

SHRI CHITUBHAI GAMIT (Mandvi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, need for doubling of railway line between Surat and Bhusawal on western railway is increasing rapidly. Several industrial units are running successfully in Surat, Baroda, Ahemdabad, Vapi and Ankaleshwar in Gujart. Coal is supplied to this area from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Doubling of railway line between Surat and Bhusawal is very essential to ensure regular and timely supply of coal, steel and other raw materials on this line. There is heavy traffic on this railway line.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to start the process of doubling the railway line between Surat and Bhusawal and conduct survey. It would be better if this railway line is electrified so that diesel may be saved.

(iii) Need for construction of an overbridge at railway crossing, Shikohabad, Utter Pradesh

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the railway level crossing on national highway at Shikohabad, which is under Firozabad Assembly Constituency, remains closed daily for hours together. Several trains pass through this railway line. Traffic remains jammed for several hours on the national highway due to closure of the gate as a result a lot of time and people of that area and passengers is wasted. If a seriously ill patient has to be taken to a hospital and the gate is closed at that time then he dies without getting any medical help. Several