

15.58 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to provide better Amenities to the Slum Dwellers in the Metropolis Particularly in Delhi**

[English]

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Sir, there is a steep increase in slum population in all the metropolis, particularly in Delhi. The Government should take immediate steps to provide shelters to the poor people by constructing tented camps and provide a common kitchen for cooking and sanitation facilities away from the limits of the city thereby giving a face-lift to the Capital. This will also considerably help in improving the environment of the city.

12.58 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

- (II) **Need to sanction the Sethu Smudram Canal Project**

DR. V. RAJESHWARAN (Ramanathapuram): Sir, For the last several years, there have been representations from many quarters, that the 'Sethu Samudram Canal Project' should be sanctioned and taken up for execution immediately. Even from defence point of view, the Canal Project stretching for about 11, 000 ft. in the Southern tip of the country cannot be brushed aside on grounds of economy. The project envisages connecting Gulf of Manner in the Bay of Bengal with Palk Bay by digging the earth below the sea-level so that sea water can flow in the canal which can be used mainly for navigation purposes.

With the execution of this project, the canal will be a great boon for ships, trawlers, mechanical boats, etc. especially for the ships sailing from West Coast to East Coast

harbours carrying cargoes to Tuticorin and other harbours in the Eastern coastal line and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A distance of about 400 kilometres can also be saved by using this Canal. Not only the distance but the valuable fuel and time will be saved by avoiding circuitous route. In view of the possible presence of foreign forces like Sri Lankan Navy and LTTE Militants and large-scale smuggling activities by the outside elements all along the Tamil Nadu coast-line, it is all the more necessary to approve and take up this sensitive project considering defence requirement.

I would, therefore, request the Government to sanction this project urgently.

- (III) **Need to provide more funds to Rajasthan Government to cope with the drought situation in Bharatpur**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNEENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) (Bharatpur): Sir, there is famine like situation in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan due to failure of rains as a result of which the rural people and farmers are very much worried. They feel concerned about the future of their families. Due to the scanty rainfall in Bharatpur district during the last 4-5 years, there is shortage of foodgrain and fodder. The State Government needs special funds on the pattern of flood relief grants to tackle the drought problem in this area.

Therefore, I would request the Government to provide special grant to the State Government so that famine relief work could be started in Bharatpur district at the earliest.

- (IV) **Need to set up some major industry in Thasara Taluk of Kalre District, Gujarat**

[English]

DR. K.D. JESWANI (Kheda): Mr. deputy-