

14.40 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to take immediate steps to cope with the situation arising out of drought at Idukki, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir the District of Idukki in Kerala is under threat of total ruin and we have been requesting for necessary action and steps for the last three years to improve the situation. The severe drought has completely ruined pepperwines, tea, coffee, cocoa, cardamom, coconut, rubber etc. have dried up and have been destroyed. All cultivations and greeneries are facing devastation. The poor peasants are panic-stricken, absolutely non-plussed. This situation, if allowed to continue, will lead to an economic havoc not only in Idukki but also in the entire State of Kerala. I therefore request the Central Government to take steps on a war-footing to meet the situation.

- (II) **Need for early completion of Jagdalpur-Nizamabad National Highway No 16**

[Translation]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jagdalpur Nizamabad National Highway No: 16 was approved four years ago, but the working staff to the full strength has not been posted there so far. Due to non-filling of the vacant posts the progress of the work on that project is very slow. As far as my information is concerned even the regular workers as gangment have not been recruited. The distance between Jagdalpur which is on the border of Baastar to Bhopalpatham is about 220km. A sub-division in Bijapur should be opened in order to accelerate the work. Recently a subdivi-

sion has been opened in Godam which at a distance of about 61 km from Jagdalpur, whereas the length of road towards Bhopalpathisnam from Godam is much more and the work could not be expedited due to the lack of control. A bridge is proposed to be constructed on the river Indrawati near Bhopalpathisnam. Therefore it is necessary to open a sub-division at Bijapur.

Hence, the Central Government is requested to direct the State Government to expedite the work for the early completion of this National Highway.

- (iii) **Need to provide funds for the construction of flats for families affected by the communal in Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the miserable conditions of over fifty thousand Muslims residing at Nala Road in Rourkela. During the communal riots which rocked many parts of my Parliamentary constituency in 1964, thousands of Muslim families took shelter at Rourkela. Even after the riot, many families stayed back and are now residing at Nala Road. Most of these families have hardly a room to accommodate their family members. The entire Nala Road areas have not been provided with bare necessities of life like drinking-water, light, and sanitation. There was a proposal by the Government of Orissa to construct flats to accommodate them but this could not be materialised as most of these families live from hand to mouth and are unable to pay the housing instalments. Sir, during the rainy seasons as the entire Nala Road area is low-land area of Rourkela township and there is no drainage system, the areas are affected by flood water. Many of them suffer from cholera. During the summer they do