

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Matters under Rule 377.

13.55 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for upgradation of technologies of the Ordnance factories, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Sir, there is an acute recession faced by the Central Government Factories, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. Jabalpur is known for its Ordnance Factories such as the Gun Carriage Factory; the Ordnance Factory, Khamaria; the Grey Iron Foundry; and the Vehicle Factory and others.

These factories have been running far short of 'Orders' during recent years. For example, the Vehicle Factory which is expected to have orders, enough to keep it running to capacity for around 4 years at a given point of time has lately been having orders enough to run it only for a year or so. Similar situation is faced by the other Central Government run ordnance factories in Jabalpur.

While cut in defence expenditure during recent years could be one of the reasons, the main reason is the pressing need for upgradation of their technology and if necessary diversification of their product-mix even attracting orders from civilian market.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to speedily undertake a study in the light of the proposals made by the workers and

others concerned to determine ways for upgradation of their technology and diversification of the lines of production to keep them running to capacity smoothly.

- (ii) **Need for early installation of electronic telephone exchanges at Yavatmal, Wani and Jawala, Maharashtra**

SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL (Yavatmal): Sir, in the Yavatmal Division of the telecommunication, there are continuous complaints of non working of telephones. The matter was raised in the House and Government had assured to install the Electronic exchanges at Yavatmal, Wani and Jawala exchanges in 1992. But, so far no action has been taken in this regard. Now the electronic machines are lying at Yavatmal Headquarter of DET.

Hence, I request the Central Government for early installation of electronic telephone exchanges at Yavatmal, Wani and Jawala, Maharashtra.

- (iii) **Need to firmly deal with Bodo Security Force, Assam.**

SHRI PROBIN DEKA (Magalodi): Sir, the 18th July, 1992 massacre of eight persons at Guladhihahi Darrang district, Assam by the Bodo security force militants is a grim reminder of the potential for blood-letting on the vexed Bodoland issue. Ever since the Bodo Security Force was formed in 1987 in Darrang district, it has indulged in mindless violence, unmindful of far reaching consequences. The frequency of indiscriminate killings during the last couple of years has set alarm bells ringing in the Bodo dominated areas of Assam. Unlike the ULFA, it does not publicise its activities, because of its organisational structure. Its nexus with the NSON and other insurgent outfits in the region as also its proclaimed objectives to "liberate" Bodo-dominated area through "armed

[Sh. Probin Deka]

struggle" should be cause for serious concern. Recently, the Army launched two operations, code-named "Honeycomb" and "Applegart". The Bodo Security Force is trying to take away the initiative from ABBU-BPAC combine capitalising on the exasperation among moderate groups with the slow progress of the tripartite talks. After all, the ABSU had stolen the initiative from the PTCA in similar fashion. The carnage may have been timed to sabotage the ongoing negotiations. Hence, I request the Union Government to deal with the Bodo Security Force firmly, the tripartite talks need to be reactivated to find an early solution of the Bodo tangle.

- (iv) **Need to review the decision regarding sale of iodised salt in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khar-gone): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the reported survey conducted by the UNICEF, the Ministry of Health of the Govt of India had issued an order on 10.11.87 imposing a restriction on the salt-producers to mix a definite quantity of iodine with salt. The sale of the common salt was banned and now only iodised salt is available and consumed everywhere.

The quantity of iodine varies from person to person in view of his circumstances, country, periods profession, his State of health and climate. The Chairman of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur have opposed the use of such iodised salt indiscriminately. Many scientists have also opposed it. The Government has launched the iodised salt programme without any prior examination of facts and scientific research. But its advertisement is continued round the clock through Door-

darshan, newspapers and pamphlets, posters in cities.

Iodised salt is detrimental to the health of the people of Assam. In many regions of the country, despite the use of iodised salts, the disease, goitre is rapidly spreading. Its reason is the consumption of iodine more than the required quantity. The U.N. sub-committee of Nutrition of 1988 had expressed its opinion that even the slightest surplus quantity of iodine can have a serious adverse effect on the people who are over 40.

The quantity of iodine and its date of expiry are not mentioned on these iodised salt packets. According to the scientists, the iodine in iodised salt packets ceases to be effective after 6 months.

I urge upon the Central Government to hold an enquiry into this matter and instead of making the use of iodised salt compulsory all over the country, it should be limited to goitre-affected regions only.

[English]

- (v) **Need to fill up posts of judges in Mumbai (Bombay) High Court**

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): The volume of pending cases in the Mumbai (Bombay) High Court has reached an alarming proportion. The number is more than 1.5 lakh as on 30th June, 1992. Due to pending cases, there is frustration among the litigants and they are losing confidence in judicial system. The dictum "Justice delayed is justice denied" has become operative. Out of the total number of 48 judges in the Mumbai High Court, sixteen posts are vacant and five judges would soon retire, taking the total number of vacancies to twenty-one. Moreover, eighteen additional posts have been created but no process has been initiated for their appointment. Thus, thirty-nine judges have to be appointed. I request the Prime Minister to look into this problem