

dent of Police each of Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF, raided the hide-out. The terrorists hurled a grenade at the raiding party in which one Sub-Inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police, and one Head Constable of CRPF were killed on the spot. It was followed by firing by the terrorists from a few adjoining houses. The fire was returned by the Security Forces and reinforcements were mobilised. In exchange of fire, two residents of Doda died. Three CRPF personnel, and one probationary Sub-Inspector were injured. Two of the seriously injured CRPF personnel were sent to hospital at Jammu for treatment. During the exchange of fire and use of hand grenades fire also broke out affecting six houses and 28 shops in the area. Immediately thereafter help of Army already located nearby was requisitioned and curfew imposed as a precautionary measure. The situation was brought under control and continues to be so. On July 19th, Adviser to the Governor, accompanied by Director-General of Police and other officials also visited the town to take stock of the situation. Since then the curfew has been relaxed during the day time and no untoward incident has been reported.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have further informed that the reports about militants having captured or brought under their control any part of Doda town or any of the police stations and Government offices are factually incorrect and baseless.

19.29 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Try Tea and Coffee Plantation in Amarkantak Region of Madhya Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SHRIMOHAN RAM JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Tea and coffee which falls under the category of essential commodities and also play an important role in earning foreign exchange for the country. So, more foreign exchange can be earned by producing tea in Amar-

kantak region of Madhya Pradesh. This is tribal dominated area. There is a great problem of unemployment. The soil, rainfall, temperature and climate of this region are most appropriate for the plantation of tea and coffee. About four years back the dindori forest department had planted coffee plantations in five hectare land of Jagatpur and Chanda forest area and those plants are still there with the height of three to four feet and have been producing fruits for the last one year. Getting inspiration from the Calcutta Tea Management Cell, some members of Jabalpur tea Traders Association planted five tea plants by bringing them from Siliguri (Bengal) in 1988 and planted them in Jagatpur Coffee Plantation are with the assistance of the forest Deptt. These plants flourished there in a good condition for upto 2 1/2 years.

I would like to urge the government that it should issue suitable directives to the officers of the forest department, tea Board, Calcutta other institutions and individuals related with tea crops so that this region of Madhya Pradesh may be added to the other Coffee producing areas of the country. It would be a great achievement to only for this state but also for the entire country.

(ii) Need to Enhance Supply of Rice to Kerala

[*English*]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, the months of July, August, September and October - the monsoon period — are considered to be the difficult period for the day-to-day life of the common-men in Kerala. The price of essential commodities takes an increasing trend during this period.

Kerala is the only State in the country where informal rationing system exists and it is also a deficit State in rice production. The present monthly Central allocation of rice to the State is 1,50,000 M.T. (theoretical requirement is 1,83,000 M.T.) while the wheat allocation happens to be only 30,000 M.T.

The National Festival of Kerala - ONAM

-fails in the month of September this year. All people in Kerala celebrate Onam as their national festival and the prices of foodgrains in the open market is likely to increase during the festival period of Onam unless certain effective measures for the distribution of these items at fair price are taken. The rice consumption during the festival period will increase and keeping in view this fact, the State Government intend to give, as usual, special rice at the rate of 5 kilogram per ration card. There are 50 lakh ration card holders in the State. The requirement for the distribution of special rice is 25,000 M.T. in a month. Therefore, I would earnestly request the Union Government to kindly consider the matter sympathetically and arrange to issue necessary orders enhancing the monthly Central allocation of rice to the State from 1,50,000 M.T. to 1,65,000 M.T. for the 4 month period, that is from July, 1992 to October, 1992 and to make special allocation of 25,000 M.T. rice for distribution as special rice for Onam during August-September, 1992. Thank you.

(III) Need for proper Implementation of schemes launched for the welfare of scavengers

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw your attention towards the plight of scavengers. Sir, they do not get their salaries even for 10-10 months. There is a lot of bunglings in their subsidy and other funds. They toil hard even then they are on the verge of starvation. They have to borrow money for their food and suffer losses. At some places their jobs are on contract basis and the contractors get the works done for ten or twenty rupees only and they themselves earn Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 daily. At some places caste male and female have been employed by the Government for this job but these people further, employ the scavengers for Rs. 50/- or Rs. 100/- per moth for performing the job.

Sir, I would like to submit that a review should be made of the implementation of the plan for the upliftment of the scavengers which was made by the Govt. and for which an amount of Rs. 560 crores were envisaged and there should be some representatives of scavengers in the concerned committee for welfare of scavengers so that the plan may be implemented properly.

(iv) Need to write off loans given to farmers settled on the Banks of River Narmada in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khar-gone): Mr. Speaker Sir, the farmers living in the adjoining districts along Narmada river in M.P. had to take loans amounting to one lakh to ten lakh rupees from the nationalised Banks for laying pipe lines in their fields under Lift Irrigation Scheme so as to face the constant droughts and famines and to provide foodgrains to the people of this country. The agriculture specialists of the banks did not provide proper advice to the farmers and got laid substandard pipe lines. The prices of Chemical fertilizers, seeds, insecticides and labour have gone up more than two times. Due to adverse weather conditions and infectious diseases, the farmers had to bear loss every year and now the bank interests have also been raised from 10% to 15.5% Due to all the above mentioned reasons, the amount of loans due to the farmers have also gone up. Those farmers have not been benefited from the loan waiver scheme either of the State Government or of the Central Government.

Today the farmers are on the verge of destruction. Their economic condition have gone from bad to worse. Today they are not in a condition to pay off their loans.

The agriculture of these farmers should also be treated as the sick industries and on that basis their loans should be waived off. Even after waving of the loans of these farmers the Government will not suffer loss because these farmers have increased the irrigated area in the country which was not at all possible from the Government plan of