

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Anything you read out under rule 377 goes to the Ministry concerned and you get a reply.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : We get a reply. But action is more important.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will convey your views to the Government.

(viii) **Need to take effective measures along Ganga in Bhojpur, Bihar to prevent soil erosion**

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Under rule 377 I draw the attention of the Government towards heavy erosion of vast areas in District Bhojpur of Bihar by river Ganges. As a result of the constantly changing course of the river, hundreds of villages have been affected and thousands of farmers have lost their houses and lands. Till recently those who were rich and prosperous have been reduced to utter penury and are left with no alternative but to migrate to other areas in search of new sources of their livelihood. Some of those who have decided to stay on and brave this calamity are involved in endless litigations to establish their claims to the lands which have now fallen on the other side of the river and are claimed by the U.P. farmers because the Ganges forms the natural boundary between the two States in this area. During the last decade there have been violent clashes between the farmers from both sides for taking possession of these lands and harvesting the crops sown by the farmers of District Bhojpur, Bihar, although it has been clearly laid down by the Trivedi Commission which was instituted under an Act of Parliament that the ownership of such lands will be decided according to the guidelines determined by the Commission irrespective of the fact whether the claimants belonged to U.P. or Bihar.

I urge upon the Central Government to start massive anti-erosion measures all along the course of the Ganges in Bhojpur in Bihar and effectively intervene in the land disputes between the farmers of the two States.

13.37 hrs.

## ASIATIC SOCIETY BILL

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we take up the legislative business. Shrimati Sheila Kaul was on her legs. Time allotted was one hour. You had started speaking on that day. You can continue your speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : As the House is aware, the Asiatic Society was founded on 15th January, 1784 by Sir William Jones, a renowned Indologist and Jurist. The objects of the Society are to organise, initiate and promote researches in humanities and sciences in Asia, to establish, maintain and run research institutions, museums, art galleries etc., to award medals, prizes and scholarships, etc., and to acquire, finance or publish periodicals, books or other literature for the promotion of its objects.

Over the years, the Society has acquired a rich collection of manuscripts, books, coins and art objects. Its library consists of General Section, Sanskrit Section, Islamic Section and Sino-Tibetan and South East Asian Section. Most of the museum collections of the Society have been made over to the Indian Museum, Calcutta. Still the Society has an Ashoka Rock Edict, some copper plate inscriptions and a few thousands of coins. The Society has a rich archival collection. For long years, the Society had advised the Government of India on matters of scientific interest and it was the activities of the Society that led to the foundation of various surveys like Survey of India, Geological Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India and Archaeological Survey of India.

Recently, however, the activities of the Society have declined and the affairs of the Society have deteriorated owing to a variety of administrative and financial reasons. So far as financial affairs of the Society are concerned, its sources of income are limited,