

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No clarification on *suo motu* statements. I am not permitting anybody. You can speak on the Energy Demands.

Now matters under Rule 377. Shri Zainul Basher.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN : Sir, I want to.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is not Shri Zainul Basher. I have called Shri Zainul Basher. Now matters under Rule 377.

12.26 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Statement made by President of Pakistan about Indian Muslims.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) :- Sir, the President of Pakistan is reported to have said that hundred million people in India are so ill-secured that they cannot reveal their Muslim identity. This remark of the Pakistani President is not only an unfriendly act against India, but is a direct insult to the Indian Muslims. The lives and activities of the Muslims in India is an open book for the whole world to see. Indian Muslims are behind none in practising their faith freely and fearlessly. On behalf of the Indian Muslims, I strongly protest against this uncalled-for remark of the Pakistani President.

The right to practise one's own faith is guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. The religious minorities, in fact, enjoy more right than their fellow citizens belonging to the majority community. The Indian Muslims are competent enough to look after their own welfare. The propaganda indulged in by the Government of Pakistan in regard to the conditions of the Indian Muslims is politically motivated and is an intervention in India's internal affairs.

I urge upon the Government of India to lodge a protest to the Government of Pakistan against the unfortunate remark by the President of Pakistan. I am also taking this opportunity to tell the President and Government of Pakistan that they should try to set their own house in order, instead of taking any diplomatic benefits at the cost of the Indian Muslims.

(ii) Need for installations of T. V. Repeater Stations at Gwalior and Lalitpur.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : (Guna) : Madhya Pradesh, the largest State in the country, has the smallest area covered by telecast programmes. Before ASIAD '82, the State had only one TV Relay Station at Raipur. Though Repeater Stations were installed at Bhopal and Indore during the ASIAD, the north-west region of the State has been left totally uncovered. As Chanderi Micro-wave Tower does not have the capability, if a Repeater was installed at Lalitpur, it would cover Chanderi, Guna and parts of Shivpuri, Tikamgarh and Vidisha Districts of Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, a Repeater at Gwalior Micro-wave Tower would cover a wide area in Morena, Bhind, Datia, Gwalior and Shivpuri Districts. There are hardly any technological or financial constraints in the way of setting up television facilities these places. Gwalior is not merely an end-to-end terminal of NEC Micro-wave equipment, but it is also on the Micro-wave route on which the TV Signals travel. In addition, the telecast programmes for Indore and Bhopal can be relayed with the help of Repeaters through the Micro-wave towers installed at Gwalior and Lalitpur. The cost would come to a mere Rs. 1.5 lakh each.

The Government is, therefore, requested to set up 400 watt transmitters near the Micro-wave towers at Gwalior and Lalitpur to enable people living within an area of 15 to 20 km radius to view telecast programmes.

I would urge upon the Government to give immediate consideration to the demand for the installation of TV Repeater Station at Gwalior and Lalitpur.