

which we are unable to control. Would he like to say something on it ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The Calling Attention pertains to support price for agricultural produce. If the hon. Member wants to get further information, let him put specific questions, and we shall reply.

SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : I have been writing to you, without any purpose.

14.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. CHAIRMAN : We now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

- (i) Provision of Oriya teaching facility in Schools and Colleges in Seraikela and Kharsuan areas and restart M.A. course in Oriya language in Ranchi University

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, the Government of India has laid great emphasis on protecting the interests of linguistic minorities living in different parts of the country. Necessary guidelines have been sent to the State Governments to take all possible steps to boost education, including providing education in mother tongue to the minorities. But it is unfortunate that due attention has not been paid in providing education among the Oriya-speaking minorities students living in Kharsuan, Seraikela and other parts in Singhbhum, Bihar. It is regrettable that the Oriya teachers working in various schools in Seraikela and Kharsuan areas are transferred to the schools where there is no provision of teaching Oriya. Many Oriya teachers have been given compulsory retirement. The most unfortunate thing is that the teachers from North Bihar are absorbed in the posts against the Oriya teachers. Previously, the official language in the offices situated in Seraikela and Kharsuan was Oriya, which has now been done away with. Oriya M.A. course has also been discontinued in Ranchi University. Many students from Orissa, att-

racted by the healthy climate of Ranchi were also coming to study M.A. However, the M.A. course has not been re-started in Ranchi University, despite repeated demand.

In view of this, I urge upon the Central Government to direct the concerned authorities to provide Oriya teaching facility in the schools and colleges in Seraikela and Kharsuan areas. Oriya M.A. course should be opened in Ranchi University forthwith.

- (ii) Hunger Strike by employees of U.N.I.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) : Employees of United News of India are on relay hunger strike for the past 16 days, and will go on an all-India strike on August 16 to press for their share in the news agency's increasing revenue and for stoppage of financial irregularities and wasteful expenditure. The Government should institute an inquiry into the financial affairs of UNI to investigate why despite 10 per cent increase in revenue in just four years, the agency is repeatedly defaulting in payment of salaries, refuses to accept the just demands of the workers for house rent, conveyance and medical allowances, and plans to close down 12 offices over the next one month.

The Government has the legal right to order audit of UNI's accounts for Government grants and loan since 1978. The Government should also write off the P and T arrears, and the development loan totalling Rs. 65 lakhs, or at least give moratorium of five years and six instalments for payment over the next 15 years. This alone will give confidence to over 750 UNI workers fearing imminent unemployment, for no fault of theirs.

- (iii) Need to check indiscriminate felling of trees and damage caused by grazing of cattle

SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD (Baroda) : The Gir forest of Gujarat which is the only habitat of the Asiatic lion, and has been declared a Wildlife Reserve Forest, is being destroyed by indiscriminate felling of trees and extensive grazing of cattle. The purpose of increasing the lion population by protect-