

MR. SPEAKER: The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

The House stands adjourned till 14.00 hours. We will then take up statements to be made under Rule 377.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after till Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REPORTED EXODUS OF EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES FROM DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377. Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I rise to raise an important matter under rule 377. The House is aware that there was a mass exodus of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) refugees from camps in the Dandakaranya Projects in March this year.

The exodus reached the staggering figure of 1.3 lakh and this heavy influx into West Bengal posed a serious problem for the state of West Bengal.

Top-level teams of officials including Ministers and MLAs and MPs visited Dandakaranya to find out the causes behind this unprecedented exodus. It came to the notice of the visiting teams that the refugees were selling of their personal belongings at throw away prices and leaving for West Bengal, where they believe there was adequate land in Sunderbans which could accommodate all 1,30,000 of them.

At a certain stage, the West Bengal Government requested the South

Eastern Railway not to allow the deserters to travel by the trains, the Railway authorities pleaded their inability to stop them from travelling by trains, as all of them were travelling with valid tickets. The question arose as to who was financing the exodus.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal is reported to have said on more than one occasions that some vested interests were financing this exodus in order to malign the left front Government.

The West Bengal Government sent a team of IB to investigate the issue, which, have reportedly submitted a report.

The Sunday, an English Weekly, on its issue dated July 30, 1978 writes: "The findings of the SIB team were shocking, to say the least. According to the report, the District Magistrate of Raipur has provided around Rs. two lakhs for distribution among the refugees. The money had come from Government funds. This money was distributed by an employee of the DM's office along with a handful of 'dalals'. The money was utilized by the deserter, for buying rail tickets and hiring trucks. The SIB report also states that the dalals enraged the modesty of some refugee women."

The West Bengal Government have sent a strong protest note to the Government.

It is necessary that the Government makes a statement. A thorough enquiry is called for in order to find out who are behind this anti-national conspiracy.

(ii) REPORTED DELAY IN CLEARING OF IRRIGATION AND POWER PROJECTS OF MADHYA PRADESH

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am permitted under Rule 377 to raise the following important and urgent matter of public importance and I request the Minister to make a statement thereon.

[Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit]

The long pending major irrigation and power projects from Madhya Pradesh State are awaiting clearance from the Central Government. The Bansagar multi-purpose project in Madhya Pradesh which envisages power generation of 244 MW and an irrigation potential of 2.46 lakh hectares costing about Rs. 322 crores is awaiting clearance for a long time. Similarly, two other projects, namely, Narmadasagar and Onkareshwari, are involved and delayed due to inter-State Narmada water dispute. The fourth project, the Sindh river project-Mohini Sagar Phase II is long pending and under examination by the Central Water and Power Commission and the Central Electricity Authority. For a balanced development of the backward regions of Madhya Pradesh, the above four major projects have to be treated on war footing and cleared at the earliest possible opportunity to enable the State to undertake various other schemes for development depending on the above. Government should therefore without delay clear the above projects and make way for full-fledged development in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) REPORTED DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO CURB POLITICAL DEFECTION

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Mr. Speaker, may I request you, Sir, to permit me under rule 377 to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance. Over a year ago, during the June-August 1977 budget session, of this Lok Sabha Government promised to introduce a Bill to curb political defections. I am sorry to say that the long awaited Bill is still not in sight. It is needless for me to stress the political importance and moral significance of such a measure for the health and strength of our parliamentary democratic polity. I would therefore request the government to take the House into confidence and give a firm assurance that the Bill will be definitely introduced in the current session.

(iv) REPORTED FLIGHT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES STUDENT IN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I want to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377: the plight of SC and ST students in IIT, New Delhi.

Though the IIT, New Delhi was founded some 20 years ago the reservation in admission to SC/ST students was introduced only in 1973. Till 1977, nearly 180 SC/ST students were admitted to the Institute. It is a sad story that out of the total 180 SC/ST students as many as 90 (fifty per cent) were removed from the rolls of the Institute.

There are many reasons for such largescale reduction of the SC/ST students in the rolls of the Institute. The SC/ST students admitted with relaxation of rules regarding eligibility of admission naturally had a lower standard than the other students. Such students would require extra-coaching to enable them to catch up with other students. But no such arrangements were made at the Institute after their admission.

According to the new rules governing academic performance the students should get a minimum of 4.75 points cumulative grade point average (CGPA). It is on the basis of this "new specific standards that the names of 90 SCST students were struck down from the rolls. The IIT Bombay is following simple grade point average (SGPA). Moreover extra-watching for SC/ST students is also arranged in Bombay. Whereas IIT Kanpur pays annual book fund of Rs. 600/- to STSC students, their counterparts in New Delhi are given only Rs. 300/-.

From the Semester year 1977 onwards, IIT New Delhi has introduced the system of linking scholarship with academic performance of the students.