

15.58 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (i) **Need to provide better Amenities to the Slum Dwellers in the Metropolis Particularly in Delhi**

*[English]*

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Sir, there is a steep increase in slum population in all the metropolis, particularly in Delhi. The Government should take immediate steps to provide shelters to the poor people by constructing tented camps and provide a common kitchen for cooking and sanitation facilities away from the limits of the city thereby giving a face-lift to the Capital. This will also considerably help in improving the environment of the city.

12.58 hrs

*[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]*

- (ii) **Need to sanction the Sethu Smudram Canal Project**

DR. V. RAJESHWARAN (Ramanathapuram): Sir, For the last several years, there have been representations from many quarters, that the 'Sethu Samudram Canal Project' should be sanctioned and taken up for execution immediately. Even from defence point of view, the Canal Project stretching for about 11, 000 ft. in the Southern tip of the country cannot be brushed aside on grounds of economy. The project envisages connecting Gulf of Manner in the Bay of Bengal with Palk Bay by digging the earth below the sea-level so that sea water can flow in the canal which can be used mainly for navigation purposes.

With the execution of this project, the canal will be a great boon for ships, trawlers, mechanical boats, etc. especially for the ships sailing from West Coast to East Coast

harbours carrying cargoes to Tuticorin and other harbours in the Eastern coastal line and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A distance of about 400 kilometres can also be saved by using this Canal. Not only the distance but the valuable fuel and time will be saved by avoiding circuitous route. In view of the possible presence of foreign forces like Sri Lankan Navy and LTTE Militants and large-scale smuggling activities by the outside elements all along the Tamil Nadu coast-line, it is all the more necessary to approve and take up this sensitive project considering defence requirement.

I would, therefore, request the Government to sanction this project urgently.

- (iii) **Need to provide more funds to Rajasthan Government to cope with the drought situation in Bharatpur**

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNEENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) (Bharatpur): Sir, there is famine like situation in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan due to failure of rains as a result of which the rural people and farmers are very much worried. They feel concerned about the future of their families. Due to the scanty rainfall in Bharatpur district during the last 4-5 years, there is shortage of foodgrain and fodder. The State Government needs special funds on the pattern of flood relief grants to tackle the drought problem in this area.

Therefore, I would request the Government to provide special grant to the State Government so that famine relief work could be started in Bharatpur district at the earliest.

- (iv) **Need to set up some major industry in Thasara Taluk of Kalre District, Gujarat**

*[English]*

DR. K.D. JESWANI (Kheda): Mr. deputy-

Speaker, Sir, Thasara taluk of Kaire District, Gujarat State was declared backward 15 years ago and remains backward till day. There are no State or Central Government plans in existence for upliftment of the area. About 50 per cent of the population there lives under the poverty line. The whole land is high level land and not a single inch of the land gets irrigation facilities. The Narmada Project which is to come into existence is also not going to irrigate this land at all. Every third years is a famine. More than 30 per cent of the area is rocky. There is no major or minor industry in this area which can cater to the area and generate financial or employment growth. Water table is quite low as a result of it there is problem of drinking water too.

I urge upon the Government to take into consideration the backwardness of the area and set up some major industry there. I also urge the Government to submit this area for excavation and study by the Department of Geology to unearth the treasure underneath.

- (v) **Need for early metalling of Southern Embankment of don canal in Champaran District, Bihar**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHENDRA BAITHA (Bagaha): Sir, Don Canal is situated in northern part of Champaran district in Bihar. The canal is 180 kms. long and it flows parallel to Balmiki Nagar and Ghorasahar on Indo-Nepal border. There is no metalled or kuchcha road on Indo-Nepal border. With this point in view both the Central and the State Governments have sanctioned the metalling of 180 kms long southern embankment of Don Canal. The Irrigation Department of Bihar Government accorded sanction to it on 1.2.80 and the work was started but till now only 63 kms. long strip has been completed a major part of which located in eastern Champaran and

the work on 117 kms. long embankment in Western Champaran has been abandoned.

This road will be useful from defence and civilian point of view and especially in the context of the development of Adivasi people because Tharu, Urani and other backward communities are residing in this region. This road will enable the government to check smuggling of forest wealth from Champaran district and will facilitate the farmers to transport their agriculture produce.

Therefore, in view of the national security and public interest, the work of metalling the southern embankment of Don Canal should be undertaken by the Border Road Organisation as early as possible.

- (vi) **Need to direct Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. to spare some portion land in its possession earmarked for construction of trade fair complex in Madras**

[*English*]

DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN (Madras South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been a pressing demand for a permanent Trade Fair complex at Madras by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The land for the said purpose has already been allotted by the State Government but the IDPL with whom some portion of land is in possession is not willing to part with it, which is unused for a very long time. The land falls in Nandambakkam village, Saidapet Taluk, Chengalpattu M.G.R district which falls in my constituency.

It is urged on the part of the Central Government to persuade the IDPL to spare the land forthwith to enable the proposal of constructing separate trade fair complex there.