

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): Sir, the Government has to come to our rescue. If the Government is not helping us, what can we do?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would request you to resume your seats. He will make necessary arrangements for your stay. Kindly resume your seats.

12.45 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377-*CONTD.*

- (ii) **Need for survey of Bastar Forests by satellite and to take preventive measures to check deforestation**

[Translation]

SHRI MANKU RAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, deforestation in the Bastar district has taken place due to illegal felling of trees by the advisers in the protected forest spread over thousands of acres. Due to this illegal deforestation lakhs of acres of land in forests has been converting into desert area, plants and trees and rainfall has become very scarce in that region. It has seriously affected the environment and also the life style of the Advisers. Unless it is checked immediately, there will be complete deforestation.

Therefore, my submission is that the hon. Minister of Forests and Environment should get a survey of the forests of Bastar district conducted through satellite and submit a report of the actual position. Secondly, in the interest of conservation of forests and extension of forest cover wood cutting of wood and Bamboo as also the export thereof should be banned in the entire district at least for a period of ten years. Besides, trees useful from the point of view of public utility as well as environment, should be planted in the about 15 lakh hectares of forest land

lying vacant. The services of private sector may also be utilized for the purpose, if required. If these measures are not taken immediately, this world famous forest region will be ruined.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): With your permission, I would like to say something. I would not have interrupted the Zero Hour. But at this hour we can say something which normally perhaps under the rules we cannot. I would like to mention that the entire House congratulates our Member from the opposition who has just been married. We all wish her a very happy married life.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The whole House heartily congratulated her. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): I am joining in this group to wait for proper sweet. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): While joining in this congratulation, I must express my regret that the Members of this House have not been given the opportunity of partaking in the celebration along with the function. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): May I also express my congratulation? As Shri Indrajit Gupta has said, we did not get the opportunity of partaking in the celebrations. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Mavattupuzha): We have one Member Shri T.J. Anjalose from the Communist Party who also got married recently and he also may be congratulated. I take this opportunity of congratulating him. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI (Bellary): As a lady Member, I also want to congratulate her.