

SHRI P. C. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House is now adjourned for lunch to meet again at 14.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty Five Minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty-eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Sharat Chandra Pattanyak.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to formulate special schemes to provide drinking water and irrigation facilities in Bolangir district, Orissa.**

[*English*]

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK (Bolangir): Sir, the people of Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency in Orissa depend on the river Mahanadi and village ponds for drinking-water and irrigation facilities. Due to erratic rainfall, the streams dry up and people as well as animals are left on nature's mercy for survival. Though the ground water level in this region is inaccessible due to lack of any initiatives, the area is the worst sufferer in respect of drinking-water and irrigation facilities. Therefore, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWSS) should be initiated phase-wise in the blocks of Bolangir district and Urban Water Supply and Management Scheme should be implemented in Bolangir, Tilagarh, Sonapur and Kantabanji areas.

- (ii) **Need to enlist 'Voddar' community as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe.**

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATA REDDY (Anantpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Vodde, Voddera, Vaddila are the different names of Voddar Community whose main occupation, from time immemorial, had been digging wells, excavating canals, digging earth, cutting stones and construction works ranging from houses to dams. Poverty had been alling this community, educationally, culturally and financially. This community is very poor and its position is not better than the present Scheduled Castes people.

It is learnt that Central Government intends to introduce the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill to have a real look into the fate of various communities and in fitting cases, to include them in the SC or the ST List.

These communities have already been listed as the Scheduled Castes in six States, that is, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Gujarat. The same status may be extended to them in Andhra Pradesh also.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to include the above said communities in the List of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes.

- (iii) **Need to take steps for checking infant mortality rate in the country, particularly, in Orissa.**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring in the following matter of urgent public importance, under Rule 377.

It is a matter of great concern that the infant mortality rate has been increasing in the country. It is the highest in Orissa— one infant dies every three minutes. According to an estimate infant mortality rate in Orissa was 177 per thousand in urban areas and 126 in rural areas.

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.