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14.35 hrs.

**The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-five minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock.**

(Shrimati Margaret Alva in the Chair)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We will take up Matters under Rule 377 now.

Shri Anadi Sahu.

Title: Need to hand-over fifty acre stretch of salt land to Government of Orissa for distribution among SCs in K.Sumandi and R.Sumandi villages in Ganjam district.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Madam, there is a salt bay in Sonala-Sumandi area of Chikiti block of Ganjam district in Orissa. When salt was being produced in large quantity, it was being stacked in an area of 50 acres close to village K. Sumandi. As salt production went down because of the receding coast-line and high production cost, the 50-acres stretch of land was not used by the Salt Department, Government of India for the last 25 years.

The population of Keuta-Sumandi has increased four-fold within the last forty years. The largest community in this village belong to fisherman caste and they are Scheduled Castes. Many of them do not have homestead land. These areas come within the Berhampur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa. The Scheduled Castes, being poor, cannot purchase any homestead land for construction of houses.

Government of India may consider handing over the fifty-acre stretch of land to Government of Orissa for distribution among the Scheduled Castes of K.Sumandi and R.Sumandi of Ganjam District.