

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need to re-start the irrigation projects in Chandrapur Bhandara and Garbhghiroli, districts of Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : More than 63 per cent area in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garbhghiroli districts of Maharashtra is covered with forests. This is essential for maintaining ecological balance. But, on the pretext of observing forest conservation rules, the work of irrigation projects has been held up and even the projects under rural employment scheme have been held up. This has resulted in unemployment of lakhs of workers who are facing starvation. On the other hand, cutting of trees for selling wood in authorised jungles is going on. The farmers in these districts are facing famine conditions due to non-completion of irrigation works in those areas.

I, therefore, request the Government to pay attention to this and try to implement the irrigation projects in the areas by relaxing the relevant rules so as to enable the farmers to become self-supporting and self-reliant. I may also add that if these schemes are implemented, the area can grow enough rice to meet the needs of the entire Maharashtra.

[*English*]

- (ii) Need to relax ban on filling up existing posts and creating new ones in the hilly areas

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, the imposition of the ban on the filling up of the existing vacancies and the creation of the new posts which are justified even on the basis of workload has resulted in a serious setback to development process especially in the rural and the hilly areas of the country. While the need to curb the increase in non-plan expenditure is understandable, it is essential to see that this does not result

in a setback to development or disruption or deterioration in the normal services. Thus it is an ironical situation, that while the P & T Department is being bifurcated resulting in the upgradation of many posts and the creation of new posts, the Ministry of Finance has imposed a blanket ban on the opening of even Branch Post Offices where only extra departmental hands and no regular employees are being appointed or even on the upgradation of Post Offices where the State Governments/ Panchayats/ Local Public are willing to pay the losses by crediting NRC.

12.06 hrs

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

It is therefore requested that the imposition of the ban may be relaxed in case of hilly areas of the country as defined by the Planning Commission, because of their economic backwardness, slow pace of development and difficult geographical terrain.

- (iii) Shifting certain Branches of the Rocket Launching Station from Sriharikota to Bangalore

SHRI V. SOBHANEDREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, it is reliably learnt that many Branches and sections in the Rocket-launching station at Sriharikota are being shifted to Bangalore. It is learnt that many persons have already been transferred. This is contrary to the assurance given by the late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi that such shifting will not be done when people went on strike nearly 18 months back when the move became known.

- (iv) Need to introduce television facility in Trichur.

SHRI P.A. ANTONY (Trichur) : Sir, Trichur is the geographical centre of Kerala and cultural capital of the State, the literacy in the 1981 census is 92.5% which is the highest in India. Agriculture University of Kerala, Government

Engineering College, the only Veterinary College in the State and many other educational institutions, a Banking Centre, a Business Centre of Kerala, Sahitya Academy and other major cultural institutions are situated in Trichur.

But unfortunately there is no television facility in this most educated Trichur district. I request the Government to introduce Television facility immediately in Trichur.

(v) Need for disbursement of loans to workers of Buckingham and Carnatic mills through nationalised Banks

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : The B&C Mills, Madras, has just been reopened. But the intake of the workers is very poor and many have to be taken into the Mills and job assigned. Moreover, the workers were not paid their dues and legitimate lay-off wages, etc. No bonus has been paid to them till date. Almost all the workers were suffering even to pull on their life without any monetary aid from the Mills management, State and Central Government. Even the loans applied for by these workers from the nationalised banks were not processed till date, leave alone sanctioning them. For one full year, these workers were starving and a few of them have died in this period without any employment. In order to give a helping hand to these workers, I would request the Government of India as well as the Mill management to arrange to disburse loans to all the workers of this Mill through the nationalised banks, whether they have been taken on employment or yet to be taken. Only this kind of help will mitigate the sufferings of these workers and will make them fully fit to discharge their duties as workers in this Mill. I hope that the Government will do it immediately on a war footing.

(vi) Need to declare Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Birthday as National Day and a Public Holiday

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN

(Cooch Behar) : Today is 23rd January and on this day, 88 years back, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the greatest leader of our freedom movement, was born.

Netaji was elected twice as President of the Indian National Congress. Thereafter, he formed the All India Forward Block in order to unite the left forces and led the country on the path of struggle against British imperialism. Under the leadership of Netaji, thousand of gallant soldiers of the INA fought and died for the cause of the freedom of the country. The clarion call of "CHALO DELHI", "GIVE ME BLOOD, I PROMISE YOU FREEDOM" inspired millions of men and women of this country. The INA soldiers unfurled the tricolour flag of independent India on the soil of India, i.e., in Mairang in Manipur. The Azad Hind Government could function in the Islands of Andaman and Nicobar. The people of this country had showered their love and affection on Netaji in an abundant way.

Today I would like to draw the attention of this House, once again echoing the feelings of millions of men and women, that the pious birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose should be observed as a public holiday throughout the country. At present, holiday is observed on 23rd January by the Central Government only in West Bengal. Is Netaji not a national leader? In this international Year of the Youth, it will be in the fitness of things if the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, comes forward to declare the 23rd January as a National Day by observing a Public Holiday and suggest to the youth to follow the patriotic ideals of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for the betterment of the country.

(vii) Need for investigation into Crack detected in Kalindri navigation lock gate under the Farakka Barrage Project

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jangipur):
Sir, I would like to draw the attention