

13.24 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FOR RURAL LANDLESS EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE PROGRAMME FOR 1985-86 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL HOUSES FOR S. C. AND S.T.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, While presenting the Budget for the current year, I had referred to the Government's commitment for further strengthening and improving the performance of the special programmes for poverty alleviation and employment generation. As a step in this direction, it has been decided to make a special allocation of Rs. 100 crores for the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme in addition to the allocation of Rs. 400 crores provided in the Budget estimates for 1985-86. The additional allocation, which will be fully met by the Centre, will be utilised exclusively for construction of low cost rural houses using local materials and with attendant facilities for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It is expected that it will be possible to begin construction of 200,000 houses under this scheme during the current year and a total of one million rural houses for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the Seventh Plan period. As the Hon'ble Members will notice, the programme will not only create shelter and tangible physical assets for the poor but it will also provide substantial direct and indirect employment opportunities in rural areas.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) **Need to set up a University in Purnea district of Bihar**

SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in connection with the setting up of a University in Purnea district of Bihar I have to submit to the Central Education Minister that Purnea district, which is my constituency

is situated at the border of Nepal and West Bengal.

Purnea is the oldest district of the Kosi Division and its population is about 40 lakh. Purnea is situated in the middle of the Kosi Division. With the setting up of a university there students will get a special facility. In addition, teachers and examiners too will be benefited.

The students of Purnea district have to go to far off places to get higher education with the result that they have to spend not only more time, but they have to spend more money also in these times of high prices. During elections, when I visited the different areas, I had an opportunity to speak to the students and their parents. They repeatedly requested for setting up of a university in Purnea.

Many students of the Kosi Belt go out for medical education also. There is a vigorous demand for a medical college also. Therefore, keeping in view the above things, it is necessary to set up a university in Purnea.

I request the Education Minister to give instructions in this regard at the earliest so that the students of Purnea district get the facility of higher education.

[English]

- (ii) **Need to develop Sinkhedraja, the birth place of Chhatrapati Shivaji's mother as a tourist Centre**

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : Sinkhedraja, in district Buldana in Maharashtra is one of the most important places in the State. It is here that Jijamata, the mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born. Every year, at the time of Jijamata's birth anniversary thousands of people from all over the State come here to pay their homage. But unfortunately this place is very backward.

Keeping this in view Shri A. R. Antulay, the then Chief Minister, constituted a high powered "Sinkhedraja Development Committee." The Committee submitted its Report