

[*Sh. Birbal*]

Therefore, the Government of India may issue suitable directions and orders to start the work on both these canals with a view to provide relief from camjine. I have been corresponding on this subject and also raised this issue in the House a number of times.

- (ii) Need to look into the problems of weavers and the irregularities in supply of yarn and sale of Janata Cloth in Bihar

SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards the plight of about 3 crore people engaged in handloom and powerloom industry. The weavers in the whole country are facing the problem of un-employment due to unprecedent increase in the prices of yarn and they have left this industry and have been roaming in desperation in big cities. It is reported that this situation has arisen because of the fact that cotton and yarn are being exported abroad in large quantities. Besides serious irregularities are being committed in the supply of yarn and sale of Janata Cloth in many States particularly in Bihar. The weavers are being rendered jobless by showing false production and sale.

It is therefore, requested that yarn be supplied at last year's price the bungling in respect of Janata Cloth may be checked and crores of Government money be saved by cancelling false claims. The weavers may be allowed to produce Janata Cloth through Weavers' Cooperatives directly instead of through the Apex institution.

- (iii) Demand for beautification of Bakhira lake in Khalilabad Parliamentary Constituency.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following notice under Rule 377.

"There is a big lake Bakhira in Khalilabad Parliamentary Constituency of Basti district. It is visited by all kinds of birds from various parts of the country and during winter season their number increases considerably. The above lake is a centre of

attraction for people of many districts. This lake is situated on the national highway which connects Gorakhpur with the internationally famous place Lumbini garden, the birth place of Lord Buddha. There has been a long standing demand of the local people, people's representatives and social workers for beautification of this lake with a view to develop it as a bird sanctuary. But so far no action has been taken in this regard. If this arrangement is made, the number of tourists will rise considerably.

I, therefore, demand that a scheme to beautify and develop Bakhira lake as a tourist centre be formulated and implemented without delay so that the place may develop as a centre of entertainment for the people and a suitable place for birds and animals.

[*English*]

- (iv) Need to take relief measures for the people affected by recent snowfall in Zanskar Sub-division of Kargil district and Lingshed area of Leh in Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Sir, unprecedented and early snowfall in the second week of October, 1937 in the Ladakh region of J&K has caused widespread damage to harvested crops in many parts of Ladakh and Kargil districts of the region. According to reports reaching now, the STOD areas of Zanskar sub-division of Kargil district and Lingshed, Debling, Yulehung Neyrak and some other higher reaches of Leh district have had very heavy snowfall and harvested crops and stakes of fodder collected by the farmers for winter months have been damaged. Shortage of essential foods for people and fodder for domestic cattle has also been reported from the above areas. Due to early closure of Zanskar-Kargil highway, some Bihari and Nepali coolies who had to track from Zanskar to Leh *Via* Zhungram reportedly died on route. Deaths of some domestic cattle were also reported from the STOD area of Zanskar.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government for sanctioning of relief, sending of aerial reconnaissance party and arranging air-dropping of foods and fodder in the

affected areas of Zaskar in Kargil district and Lingshed area of Leh district at the earliest.

[Translation]

(v) Demand for immediate payment of 'Interim relief to the staff and workers of IDPL

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

The amount of interim relief given to the officers and staff of the Government of India Undertaking has provided some relief to the workers in this era of rising prices. But there are still some Government undertakings where this interim relief has not been paid. It has caused discontentment among the employees. If no immediate attention is paid towards it, there is every likelihood of spreading of industrial unrest. The I.D.P.L. is one among such undertakings where the management has refused to make payment of interim relief to the employees despite their repeated requests. The employees of the I.D.P.L. unit at Rishikesh have started a peaceful agitation to invite the attention of the management towards their demand for payment of interim relief. Without stopping production, the workers have though adopted legal methods to knock at the doors of the Manager of I.D.P.L. and other such officers from whom they were expecting justice, yet they have not been successful so far.

But it is clear that the 4000 workers of the I.D.P.L. unit at Rishikesh will not keep quiet with an empty stomach. More or less this is the position of the other units of the I.D.P.L. In this situation it is necessary for industrial peace that the hon. Minister of Industry may give immediate orders to the management of the I.D.P.L. to make payment of interim relief to its employees and ensure that this amount is paid immediately.

[English]

(vi) Need for more stringent measures to check smuggling in the country

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam): Smuggling has assumed the proportion of the biggest industry.

According to an estimate the smuggled polyester fibre and fabrics come to a few thousands crore rupees per year. Together with smuggling activities in gold and electronics the total will be slightly over 1/3 of the exports. With the continuous smuggling of Narcotics etc., this evil has assumed alarming proportions. Therefore, suitable strategy may have to be formulated to effectively counteract this malady, if necessary, by strengthening and arming the administrative machinery with necessary powers by stringent legislation by securing the consensus of all sections and parties in the House.

(vii) Need to provide more funds to Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation created by drought

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): The State of Uttar Pradesh is one of the States currently in the grip of unprecedented drought conditions in various parts of the country. 50 of the 56 districts of the State have been severely affected. The estimated loss suffered by the State due to failure of rains in 1987-88 is Rs. 3,000 crores. On the agriculture front not more than 40% of the target of 116 lakh tonnes of Kharif foodgrains is likely to be harvested. The fall in sugarcane production is estimated to be 20% of the target.

The cost of drought relief programme is estimated to be Rs. 1300 crores whereas a meagre amount of Rs. 140 crore has been given by the Union Government to meet the situation. The State is facing serious paucity of funds to implement its drought relief schemes and is on the cusp of economic crisis.

I would, therefore, strongly urge the Government to reconsider the matter and to meet the State Government's demand of Rs. 1300 crores so that the affected population is covered under the relief programme.

(viii) Need for steps to remove the apprehensions of the people regarding biological warfare and joining Paris Convention in view of Indo-US Vaccine Pact.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): The recently concluded Vaccine Action Programme Pact between the Governments of