

13.00 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to provide financial assistance to the State Government of Bihar for converting kucha roads into all weather pucca roads in North Bihar**

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mithila region of North-Bihar has been badly ravaged by the recent floods. The floods were the worst in living memory. In this region, the *pucca* roads are a few and far between. All the *kucha* roads and small bridges and culverts were washed away by incessant rains and swollen rivers.

Mithila is strategically placed, in the sense that it is located on the border of Nepal. For a variety of reasons, it is essential that a network of *pucca* and all-weather roads be constructed there on a war-footing. Unfortunately, despite our repeated requests, no attention is being paid to this problem of paramount importance.

Lack of *pucca* roads has adversely affected the economic growth of Mithila region. Miseries of the people during rains cannot be described in words. For weeks together, people cannot obtain goods of daily consumption from the neighbouring market. They cannot take the ailing patients and expectant mothers to neighbouring hospitals.

Therefore, the only remedy to these maladies is that the Government of India should provide an assistance of Rs. 300 (three hundred) crores to the Government of Bihar during the current financial year, to enable the State Government to convert the *kucha* roads into all-weather *pucca* roads, and to get the breached embankments repaired on a war-footing.

The State Government is not in a position to solve this problem, as its resources are limited.

I would, therefore, request the Central

Government to take immediate steps to provide the above amount to the Bihar Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House is now adjourned for lunch, and will re-assemble at 2 p.m.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

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

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377--Contd.

[English]

- (ii) **Need to provide daily flight from Jeypore to Bhubaneswar or Hyderabad via Visakhapatnam**

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Koraput and Bastar Districts of our country are the most backward areas, regarding infrastructure specially regarding communications. It has scanty railway lines, with circuitous routes and so also the roads due to hills and mountains and it takes long time to reach the destination. Air journey can save lot of time and therefore many persons who can afford to pay, avail the air journey from Jeypore to Bhubaneswar or Hyderabad via Visakhapatnam but always many passengers are left in the waiting list and they cannot take the flight for want of seats. One Dornier Vayudoot flight is operating from Hyderabad to Bhubaneswar via Rajahmundry, Visakhapatnam and Jeypore only three days a week. If the flight is made a regular daily flight, large number of passengers who fail to get seats on the flight can get their seats easily.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister for Civil Aviation to examine this case and pass necessary orders to have daily flights in the interest of developing this backward area.