

Sri Raghavendra Swamy which attracts hundreds of devotees daily from all over Karnataka and also from the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. There is also a holy place of Muslims and many devotees visit this place regularly.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to provide a stoppage immediately at Karjagi for Mahalaxmi Express, Kittur Express and Gol Gumbaz Express.

- (ii) **Need to amend Indian Penal code, code of Criminal Procedure and Indian Evidence Act to provide punishment for anti-social elements for throwing acid on people**

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Sir, incidents of throwing concentrated acid are occurring with alarming frequency, as is in my constituency, Jabalpur. Anti-social elements are using acid as a weapon of violence and personal vendetta. Its terrorising impact is tremendous. Acid burns through the skin flesh and bores the bones. Many affected persons have lost their eyes and their faces are disfigured to unimaginable proportions. A stage is reached when the victim curses himself for being alive.

This crime of causing hurt/disfigurement/defacement by acid is registered under section 326/307 IPC. In public interest, it is imperative that the following measures be immediately incorporated in the IPC, the Criminal Procedure Code and take the Indian Evidence Act to ensure quick trial and award deterrent punishment to offenders:—

- (a) The IPC be suitably amended to make defacement/disfigurement by acid throwing a specific offence with minimum punishment of imprisonment for life.
- (b) The Code of Criminal Procedure be amended to set up special courts for trial of such offences for quick disposal of such cases.

(c) The Evidence Act be amended so that the burden of proof be shifted on the accused to disprove his guilt or establishment of *prima facie* case against him.

(d) Strong and heavy pecuniary fine should be imposed and compulsorily recovered from the accused, either from his assets or from his labour in jail to pay the victim compensation to meet the exorbitant expenditure the victim has to incur on medical treatment.

[Translation]

- (iii) **Need to write off the 10 year old loans given to landless and small farmers**

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377:

Millions of small farmers and landless workers in rural areas are in debt. In order to meet their requirements, they have been taking loans from the Departments of Cooperatives Revenue, etc. and banks from time to time. But they have not been able to repay their loans and interest thereon due to droughts, floods, unemployment and above all poverty. It is impossible to recover the loans under such conditions and, therefore, to make efforts in this direction is to waste both time and money. It is also important to consider seriously the question of providing relief to lakhs of such families. It is inhuman to keep these families under debt generations after generations.

Keeping in view the fact that small farmers and landless workers are not in a position to repay the outstanding loans, Government is requested to remit all types of loans which are more than 10 years old.