

12.48 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to bring mango-belt in Malihabad and Hasanganj regions of Lucknow and Unnao districts under Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD (Mohanlalganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, hail-storm has hit the mango crop five times in Malihabad (Lucknow district) and Hasanganj (Unnao district) which form part of my Lok Sabha Constituency. The hail-storm has completely destroyed the mango crop in the mango-belt in the region.

12.49 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

On 25th April around 3.00 p.m. a massive hailstorm hit the area during which hailstones weighing upto a kilogram destroyed the mango crop completely. Many farmers committed suicide and some unconscious in shock. The hail-storm affected 300 villages. Mango growers suffered a loss of nearly Rs. 10 crores. The State Government has been informed of the loss of mango crop. The only way to solve the problem of those farmers is to bring the mango-belt in Malihabad and Hasanganj regions of Lucknow and Unnao districts under Crop Insurance Scheme. From October next, arrangements should be made for the supply of free pesticides for spraying on the mango crop. The Government should also give orders to conduct an immediate survey in order to assess the crop damage.

- (ii) Need to provide financial and other assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to cope with severe drought conditions.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for the last 4 years, Rajasthan has been reeling under drought. The Hon'able Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi toured Rajasthan and announced an increase in the amount of assistance sanctioned for drought relief. The scarcity

of water being felt by the 4 crore population spread over an area of 3.5 lakh Kilometres in Rajasthan can be met only if the Central Government treats it as a national problem. Otherwise, Rajasthan would become another Ethiopia. If excess flood waters from the neighbouring States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, is diverted to Rajasthan, the State can produce a substantial quantity of foodgrains for contribution to the Central Pool.

Apart from irrigation, drinking water has also become a problem. But sources of water within the earth's crust have not been tapped. The 'High-Pressure Rig' imported from the U.S.S.R. should be sent to Rajasthan immediately. It is not one village but all which are suffering from scarcity of drinking water. So the definition of the problem village should be changed. Never has scarcity of water in Chittorgarh district of South Rajasthan been so acute as it is today. The people have to crave for even a single drop of water. Land should be drilled and deep wells, tube-wells and hand-pumps should be installed immediately. Otherwise both human beings and cattle will perish.

A long-term policy should be formulated in the Eighth Five-Year Plan to tackle famine and check further desertification of Rajasthan. The whole country is responsible for the security of Rajasthan because it is a border State. It has always been a sentinel of the great culture of India. Therefore, I strongly urge that :

- (1) Central assistance be increased.
- (2) Excess flood-waters from the neighbouring States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh be diverted to Rajasthan.
- (3) Underground sources of drinking-water be tapped immediately.

[English]

- (iii) Increasing crimes on Indo-Bangladesh border in West Dinajpur district

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj): Cattle lifting, dacoity, smuggling and all sorts of anti-social activities go on along

the whole Indo-Bangladesh border of West Dinajpur district in West Bengal and these are done by Bangladeshis who frequently cross the border at various points. They penetrate deep into India and do these mischiefs. These activities increase during the declining moon. BSF cannot prevent these. Recently, cattle lifting has increased in the Goalpukur sector. I have drawn attention of the Central Government many times but no effective steps have been taken so far. I request the hon'ble Minister to pay serious attention to this important problem and devise new measures to prevent these crimes.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to open Navodaya Schools in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, in terms of area, Bastar is the largest district in Madhya Pradesh. Its area is 39114 square kilometres. There are 3388 villages spread throughout this district. Travelling from one village to another is a time-consuming process because of inadequate transport facilities. The farthest village is situated at a distance of 200-250 kilometres from the district headquarters. The district is predominantly inhabited by Adivasi population.

From the point of view of education this district is way behind other Adivasi districts. Under the Central Government's New Education Policy, it has been decided to open one Navodaya School in each district. That means Bastar district will get only one such school. Considering the area of the district and the objective of creating interest in education among Adivasis, the Government is requested to approve the opening of two Navodaya Schools in Bastar district. This will help providing Adivasi students an opportunity to receive higher education.

(v) Need to ban advertisement relating to eggs, meat and alcohol on media

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, prior to independence and until four years back, advertisements relating to eggs, meat, alcohol and other intoxicants were banned on the media. This was done in keeping

with our religious customs, directive principles of the Constitution advertisement code and in deference to the sentiments of the majority community of this country. Such advertisements continue to appear in newspapers and on Government media, such as, T.V and radio despite the official stand on the issue. Advertisements relating to eggs, meat and alcohol are unaesthetic, provocative and objectionable. For example, the current advertisement relating to eggs being put out through radio and T V goes like this :

*"Meri Jaan, Meri Jaan,
I love you. Mein
tumhey brandy
pilaonga, whisky
pilaonga aur murgi
ke ande khilaonga.
Meri Jaan, Meri Jaan,
Sunday ho ya Monday
roz khao ande."*

If a secular Government allows such improper advertisements on its media, it is acting in contravention of its policy of protecting, preserving and promoting Indian culture and traditions. Under the existing rules, presentation of alcohol related advertisements, directly or indirectly, is illegal and a cognisable offence whereas in the advertisement mentioned earlier, brandy and whisky are also being advertised along with eggs. On the one hand, the Government makes efforts to stem the increasing intake of intoxicants and on the other it encourages the use of intoxicants through its media. These advertisements are misleading. Scientific research has shown that eggs contain deadly elements like uric acid, cholesterol, avidin and D.D.T. These elements are known to cause eczema, kidney-stone and ailments of the heart and liver. Current advertisements show scant respect to findings of scientists and to the disorders that are caused following consumption of eggs, while they go on misleading viewers and listeners. Hence these advertisements are misleading and detrimental to consumer interests.

Therefore, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry of the Central Government is urged to immediately ban advertisement relating to eggs, meat and alcohol