

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

ful, they were mercilessly lathi-charged by the police, causing severe injuries to some.

While protesting against the wanton lathi-charge by the police, I demand statement by the Home Minister or by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting on the episode.

(v) Need to ensure smooth flow of vehicular traffic of Zoji-La on the Srinagar-Leh highway.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): Sir, the tragedy which had resulted in the deaths of over hundred people at the Zoji-La on the Srinagar-Leh highway in October last year as a result of sudden and early snowfall, appears to have been forgotten. The Border Roads Organisation, the Army authorities and the civilian agencies are supposed to work in close coordination for regular and smooth flow of traffic on the Zoji-La, but unfortunately, no coordination is seen. Lately, the Border Roads Organisation has stopped the realignment works at the Zoji-La, reportedly on the advice of the Army authorities. Sonamarg to Kargil, vehicular journey has become a two-day affair instead of the usual few hours journey. Civilian passengers and tourists travelling in buses are put to great inconvenience. The civilian traffic personnel posted for regulation of civil traffic do not take interest in smooth flow of traffic. Stocking of essential commodities for Ladakh region is in a very bad shape as not much time is left for closure of Zoji-La for the winter. If the flow of traffic is not regulated properly and in time, supply and stocking of essential items of civilians as well as the Army will be adversely affected.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to ensure proper coordination between the Army, the Border Roads Organisation and the civilian agencies for smooth flow of traffic so that stocking of essential commodities and other defence supplies to Lakakh could be made well before the closure of Zoji-La.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to direct Food Corporation of India to construct a godown in Khalilabad Tehsil of Basti district Uttar Pradesh

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Sir, I would like to give a notice under Rule 377.

In order that the farmers get remunerative price for their produce and are saved from the exploitation by middle-men, the Government for the last several years fixed the support price for their wheat production and made arrangements for its purchase. Under this policy, various departments purchase wheat from the farmers. But due to lack of proper arrangements for their storage, large quantities of wheat get rotten while lying in the open and getting wet. In the Basti district of Uttar Pradesh also, for want of proper storing facilities, large quantities of wheat purchased from the farmers get wet and are spoiled every year and at times wheat is not purchased from the farmers on the plea that there is no proper room for storing it.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to issue immediate instructions for the construction of a 50-tonne capacity godown in the Khalilabad Tehsil of Basti district by the Food Corporation of India so that the entire quantity of wheat produced by the farmers is purchased and saved from getting rotten.

[English]

(vii) Need to instal electronic equipment in the new telephone exchange at Nanded.

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN (Nanded): I am making statement under Rule 377.

Nanded District in Maharashtra is one of the fastest developing districts of the state