

12.14 hrs

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

*[English]*(i) **Opening of LPG Agency at Una in Himachal Pradesh**

MR. SPEAKER: The House now will take up matters under rule 377. Prof. Narain Chand Parashar.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The inordinate delay in the opening of a Gas Agency at Una, has caused extreme inconvenience to the people of this district. While most of the other Districts of the State are enjoying this facility, Una is the only district to be deprived of this facility. The prolonged litigation in a court of law, after the initial sanction by the Government has caused deep frustration among the people. The people are becoming restive and may launch an agitation. I, therefore, request the Minister for Petroleum to find an immediate solution to this problem and ensure the opening of a Gas Agency at Una, even if it has to be re-allotted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Pandey.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else will go on record. Only Mr. Madan Pandey will go on record.

*[Translation]*

(ii) **Need to take steps to check Air Pollution in cities**

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the Government is making its all out efforts to control the environmental pollution, even then it is not an easy job because pollution is increasing very rapidly in the big cities of the country. After conducting ecological tests in Bom-  
\*Not recorded.

bay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi, the National Institute of Environmental Engineering Research, Nagpur has revealed that the atmosphere in these metropolitan cities is being polluted by factories and motor vehicles. According to the World Health Organisation Report in Delhi the air is injurious to health. As per survey report of the I.T.I, 30 per cent population of Delhi is suffering from asthma, cough and certain other sorts of respiratory disorders due to air pollution. There are only two major causes of this air pollution one of them is the large number of motor vehicles and the excessive smoke emitted by them. In Delhi, 80,000 new vehicles are registered every year and approximately 70,000 vehicles come in Delhi from the neighbouring States. In addition to this, nearly 4,500 buses of Delhi Transport Corporation also cover a distance of 12 lakh kilometers a day. This situation is indicative of the fact that a motorcycle while covering a distance of 960 kilometers consumes as much quantity of oxygen as will be required by a person in a year. The other reason of this pollution is the rapid increase of industries. The number of factories in Delhi has reached the mark of 68,000 in 1986-87 from 8,000 in 1951-52. Almost the same situation is prevailing in all other metropolitan cities of the country. In the pink city of Jaipur, the number of asthma patients is increasing due to dust from the mines and every day one thousand tonnes of poisonous gases are being added to the atmosphere of Bombay.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Labour to take some stringent measures so as to check the pollution being caused by the motor vehicles and to ensure that factories are set up quite far away from the residential colonies so that the health of the public may be safeguarded.

(iii) **Need to take steps for the protection of Consumer Rights.**

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the protection of Con-

sumers, there are Essential Commodities Act, food Adulteration Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act and M.R.T.P. Act in this country and only recently a new law has also been enacted for the protection of consumers.' But, inspite of all these laws in the country, the rights of the consumers are not being protected. There should be the price printed at every meter of the cloth and all the commodities should be made available in such packets on which the price of the commodity should be got printed so that the consumers do not pay a higher price therefor to the traders and if the traders demand a higher price, the consumers may get an action initiated against them. The rights of the consumers, instead of publishing them in the pamphlets or booklets, should be propagated through Radio and T.V. Consumer Councils should be set up in every locality and village so that these councils may go to courts in case a trader weighs less, asks for a higher price or sells adulterated commodities. A text on the rights of consumers should be included in the textbooks of 5th to 10th standard. In order to strengthen the public distribution system, the officers and the owners of fair price shops should be made individually responsible. The Government should also take immediate steps to check the prices of vegetables. Recently there has been a spurt in the prices of milk and ghee. The Government should take necessary steps in this regard. A campaign should be launched to help the consumers to have the awareness of their rights.

[English]

- (iv) **Need to allocate funds to the government of Bihar for anti-erosion and flood protection projects for Bhojpur district of Bihar**

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar): I draw the attention of the Government to the imminent threat posed to the famous city of Buxar by massive erosion caused by the Ganges.

The relentless fury of the river has already eroded a big chunk of the ancient

fort which has so far registered a total change in to the course of the river. It is easy to gauge the enormity of the problem by the fact that a large number of villages downstream have already been wiped out and hundreds of acres of diara land rendered into sand dunes or vast stretches of water. Lakhs of people living and cultivating their fertile lands on the banks of the river now face the sure prospect of turning into paupers and nomads without land or even dwelling places.

My repeated requests to Government for taking immediate steps in this regard have borne no fruits so far.

I may once again remind the Union Government that this problem cannot be tackled by the State Government with their meagre resources and limited technical base. And if there is further delay in taking effective anti-erosion measures, the river which now forms Bihar's boundary with UP will flow right through the middle of Bhojpur district.

This unprecedented calamity can be faced only if the Union Government comes out with massive financial help to the State Government and ensures that speedy measures are taken to tackle the problem.

I urge upon the Minister of Water Resources Development to allocate necessary funds and impress upon the State Government to prepare a comprehensive anti-erosion and flood protection project for district Bhojpur in Bihar.

- (v) **Need to extend the railway line from Berhampur to Dasapala**

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): The recent announcement of Hon'ble Railway Minister at Bhubaneswar that he will reconsider the establishment of a railway line from Khurda to Bolangir in Orissa has raised high hopes in the minds of general public. Since the British time, as it is evident from the B.N. Railway map, survey had been conducted for a railway-line from Berhampur in Ganjam District to the then Russelkunda now Bhanjanagar, but that has