

12.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (1) **Need to fulfil the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on priority basis.**

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the framers of our Constitution had made provision for reservation for the Scheduled Castes/Tribes/Adivasis keeping in view their poverty and backwardness. A reservation of 18 per cent and 2 per cent was provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. But this reserved quota has not been filled up even after 38 years of independence as a result of which there is widespread resentment amongst these people. Besides, the percentage of schemes sanctioned for them is also not satisfactory. They are being neglected in this respect also. The funds allotted for them are being misused and the people of these communities are not getting full benefit. In fact these people are being neglected as ever.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I therefore, strongly demand of the Central Government that the reservation quota as provided in the Constitution should be filled on priority basis and the schemes sanctioned for their welfare should be properly implemented so that these people may be benefited and the Government may also fulfil their commitment.

[*English*]

- (ii) **Need for continuance of existing Doordarshan Insat-IB transmitter station at Muzaffarpur and immediate erection of proposed T.V. tower at Darbhanga in Bihar.**

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): It is learnt that there is a move to shift the Muzaffarpur Doordarshan INSAT-B transmitter station to some other State. In this connection it is necessary to mention that it

was a gift to north Bihar by the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, under the Satellite Instruction Television Experiment Programme.

The transmitter station has a full programme shooting unit with programme producer and cameraman attached to it. All these years this transmitter station was denied editing facilities despite the persistent demand of the local people. As a result, the developmental schemes in North Bihar could not be properly projected. Instead of meeting this demand, the unit itself is now threatened of its existence. In this regard it is relevant to mention that the Darbhanga T.V. tower which was scheduled to be completed in December 1984 has not yet been taken up. As a result a large number of the rural population of North Bihar is denied the facility which the rest of the country is having. Therefore, it is requested that Muzaffarpur TV transmitter station should not be shifted from this place and Darbhanga TV tower be erected as quickly as possible.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) **Need to take effective measures to root out corruption from the country.**

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, if our country has to develop and reach its cherished goal, it must root out corruption without delay. Effective and concrete steps will have to be taken for this purpose. In the first instance, political leaders must have honesty, far-sightedness, devotion to duty and a sense of sacrifice. They should be proud of adopting this path and should make their lives a model for the people. They will not be able to win the hearts of the people merely by false promises and tall talks. If they fail to win the hearts of the people, they will not be able to exercise any check on corrupt government officers. In such circumstances, the administration will never be free from corruption. This unholy alliance of corrupt leaders, corrupt capitalists and corrupt officers will continue. This corruption includes all such activities which benefit only a few and harm most of the people. Corruption has become a curse for our

country. It is rampant everywhere. The entire society is in its grip and it has destroyed our moral character, ideals, principles, etc. In such a situation, Government should make every effort to eradicate it. If the Government show any carelessness and laxity in this regard, then all our schemes of development work and for providing relief to the poor will not succeed and we shall not be able to achieve the 'Swaraj' of Bapu's dreams in which the people of the poorest section of the society will get the same facilities as are available to kings and emperors.

[English]

- (iv) Need to provide central assistance to the people affected by severe drought in Kalahandi district of Orissa.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): With your permission, Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:

The entire State of Orissa was severely affected by drought. Kalahandi is one of the districts in Orissa which is 450 kilometres from Bhubaneswar and is on the Orissa-Madhya Pradesh border which faces perpetual drought conditions in most of its areas. Drought in this district has now created conditions of severe scarcity. Agricultural unemployment is high. About 60,000 people in the Boden block and about 20,000 persons in the Komna block of this district are now in starving conditions. Nearly 25,000 people in the Sinapalli block and another 15,000 in the Khariar block are in dire straits today. There is absolutely no work for them. People do not have any belongings in their houses except a few utensils. Several people have already left their homes for Raipur and other places of Madhya Pradesh in search of work.

I urge upon the Central Government to send immediately a Central Team to the District to study the gravity of the situation and to allot adequate funds for opening large number of mid-day meal centres and also for starting drought relief work in every village. And, Sir, I am very happy that the Prime Minister is going to that

area.

- (v) Need to provide financial assistance to farmers affected by devastating floods in Idukki district of Kerala.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, many parts of Kerala were seriously affected by a devastating flood in which about 72 people lost their lives and thousands of houses were destroyed. Heavy damage to the agricultural and cash crops has occurred, dealing a crushing blow to the economy of the State.

Idukki district had to bear the major brunt of the nature's fury. Torrential rain and landslides have destroyed vast areas of standing crops. Idukki is the single district which contributes 70 per cent of the cardamom and 30 per cent of the pepper exported from India. Almost the entire quantum of tea produced in Kerala comes from this district. Most of the major cash crops such as pepper, cardamom, coffee, rubber, coconut etc. have suffered serious damage. According to an estimate, in this district, 12,000 hectares of pepper, 11,000 hectares of cardamom, 1,000 hectares of rubber and 400 hectares of coconut have been damaged. Similarly, 5,500 hectares of ginger and 5,400 hectares of banana have also been damaged. The total loss due to the damage of these crops alone in Idukki is estimated to be a little over Rs. 40 crores.

The loss of these valuable foreign exchange earning crops has crushed the economy of Kerala State and Idukki district in particular. It may be remembered that the impact of the damage of perennial crops such as these will be felt for many years, because, it takes several years for these crops to give yield. Widespread damage of such crops means less of production over a long period of time. In these circumstances, the Central Government should provide liberal assistance to the affected farmers. Planting materials, fertilizers and pesticides should be supplied to them free of cost and the entire cost of labour for soil conservation should be paid as grant. The entire cost of the rehabilitation should be met by the Central Government. I would request the