

12 32½ hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair].

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to provide daily Vayudoot service between Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD (Giridih): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people of Dhanbad are grateful to the Government for starting the vayudoot service for that place. This service is very useful to the people residing in that area. But at present, it is only available for three days a week—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and many times it is cancelled without prior notice; due to which passengers of this route have to face a great difficulty.

I urge the Government to provide daily vayudoot service between Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna and adequate facilities to the Vayudoot passengers.

[English]

- (ii) Need to develop certain towns of Ganjam district in Orissa under the Integrated Development Scheme

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Ganjam District in Orissa is having large number of small and medium towns and highest number of notified Area Councils in the State. But, unfortunately, under the Centrally sponsored scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns, not a single town of this District has been taken up under the scheme and no project report has been sponsored for any such towns for development. Towns such as Aska, Bhajanagar, Purusottampur, Polasara, Buguda, Hinjilikatu, Khalikote and Bellaguntha ought to have been included under the scheme by sending the project reports prepared by Orissa Government and to be approved and sanctioned by the Central Government. I would urge upon Central Government to help in the development of these towns by approving the project reports and sanction necessary amount for their development.

[Translation]

- (iii) Need to survey the rocky terrain in Chota Nagpur area for locating water resources

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): The Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India should survey the rocky terrains of Chota Nagpur in Bihar, where there is perennial scarcity of drinking water and due to geographical conditions of that area only lift irrigation schemes can be successful there.

Very little work has been done in connection with locating water resources in the rocky terrains of Chota Nagpur, Santhal Pargana and Gaya districts. In these areas, there are a number of rivers, small and big, which get dried up during the summer season, but there is a possibility of finding large quantities of water on the river beds. River Nilajan, which is also known by the name of river Phalgu, has a religious importance in Gaya and it is famous by the name of 'Antah-Salila'. Its river-bed has large deposits of water. The fields on the bank of this river alongwith thousands of hectares of land can be irrigated by setting up high tension pumping sets.

Therefore, I would like to request that the Ministry of Water Resources should survey the rocky terrain in order to locate the water resources.

[English]

- (iv) Demand to grant diplomatic status to African National Congress

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): India's bond with the freedom struggle of South African people against the racist regime of South Africa is very deep and our people and our Government have always stood in this battle on the side of South African people. This year being the 70th birthday of Nelson Mandela, one of the world's most revered fighter for the cause of freedom and equality of all people, I request the Government of India to accord diplomatic status to African National Congress as our nation's birthday gift to him. The Government of India had