

[*Translation*]

- (vi) Need to reconsider the proposal for grant of anticipatory bail by High Courts only.

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJI-BHAI MAVANI (Rajkot) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 in this House .

According to section 438 of Criminal Procedure Code, High Court and Session Courts both are empowered to grant anticipatory bail at present. But there is a move that the power of granting anticipatory bail should rest with the High Court only.

In case this provision is made, it will lead to serious consequences because the people belonging to poor and middle classes will have to suffer the most because they have to take rounds of High Courts to obtain anticipatory basis in the cases where they have been wrongly implicated, as also they will have to pay huge amount of fees to advocates in High Courts.

There is also a move that anticipatory bail seekers will have to appear in High Courts in person which means that the police will be able to arrest the person seeking anticipatory bail outside the High Courts.

Thirdly if such cases are heard by High Courts alone, it will increase in the work load of High Courts which are already overburdened and are not in a position to dispose of cases promptly, due to which a large number of cases are pending there for years together.

Various Bar Associations in the country have raised their voice against this and Rajkot Bar Association in my constituency have also raised her voice and passed a resolution. Resolutions have been passed. I appeal the Government that no such steps should be taken which may cause hardships to the people.

[*English*]

- (vii) Demand for faster development of Orissa during Eighth Five Year Plan period so as to remove regional disparities.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : The State of Orissa is backward due to neglect of the State during colonial rule. The State is endowed with natural resources in abundance, but during post-Independence period, the development of the State has not kept pace with the advanced and affluent States and Union Territories of the country. During the last four decades, the progress of development is behind the national average. Before Independence, Orissa occupied 17th position in the matter of per capita income. The position remains the same today. In the fields of education, road communication, health, industrial development and irrigation, Orissa is lagging behind the national average. The growth of the State, and per capita income is below the national average, although the growth of population is comparatively low. The situation is very much distressing.

During post-Independence era, in spite of our efforts to remove the inter-State, inter-district disparity, the gap has widened and is widening every day.

The 8th Five Year Plan is under preparation. In the Presidential Address this year, the Government has committed itself for vigorous efforts to remove the inter-State and inter-region disparity. I would urge upon the Government to formulate the 8th Plan with new strategy of development to tackle the problem of widening disparity.

- (viii) Need to set up a bench of the Supreme Court at Bangalore.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : The Highest Court of Justice i.e., Supreme Court, is situated at New Delhi. The litigants of the Southern parts of the country, i.e., from the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Pondicherry and Bombay find it difficult to approach the Supreme Court to get final justice. The

litigants have to travel all the way from the Southern States to New Delhi to pursue their cases.

It is, therefore, necessary to have a Bench of the Supreme Court at Bangalore for the benefit of the litigant public of Southern States. This will help to bring justice to the doorsteps of the litigant public.

I urge upon the Government to set up a Bench of the Supreme Court at Bangalore.

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12.25 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193... *Contd*

*Floods in various parts of the  
Country—Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Item No. 6. Hon. Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal to reply.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Members have had valuable discussion about the flood situation on 3rd instant and made good suggestions about situation in different states and the quantum of loss suffered due to floods and the steps required to be taken in this regard, Mr. Chairman, Sir, before talking about floods, I would like to say that this session is aptly known as Monsoon session. As you are aware that the country has been facing severe drought for the last 4 years, particularly the drought for the last two years was the severest drought of the century. The condition in Rajasthan and Gujarat was the worst due to this drought. These two states were badly affected by drought. I will go to the extent of saying that the House should express its gratitude to god Indra that there has been good and timely rain through-out the country and this is a good beginning which is an indicative of good prospect of not only kharif crops but Rabi crops also.

There had been excess of rainfall in some parts of the country and some parts have also been flooded but Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, the condition of the cattle and the human beings had worsened due to continuous drought for 4 years and the level of under ground water had also gone down. At many places, under ground water had become brackish due to which drinking water problem has assumed serious proportion in the country. Water dried in wells and tube wells creating a difficult situation before the country. This rain will raise the level of under ground water and will also remove its brackishness. Along with this, our tanks and dams from which canals originate are filled with water which could be used for irrigation purposes by releasing water into canals from them. Generation of electricity in hydro electricity projects suffered due to scarcity of water. That deficiency will also be recouped and the electricity will be available in sufficient quantity to different industries in the country. When it rains, electricity is not needed for tubewells. Electricity so saved will be utilised in other works of the development of the country. Industries will run by this and people will get employment there, this will also improve the economic condition of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some Hon. Members have raised some points in this House. Through you, I would like to inform the House that 16 States and 124 districts have suffered some losses due to floods this year. I would like to tell about the losses suffered due to floods in 124 districts and 16 States with the help of the figures available with me. In all, 16 states and 124 districts covering an area of 1669000 hectares of land and a total population of 84 lakhs 13 thousand people had been affected; the most unfortunate part of the tragedy is this that as many as 442 people and 11,688 cattle lost their lives. Standing crops on about 10 lakhs 65 thousand hectare areas have also been damaged.

For this, the Government of India and the State Governments have established 2230 relief camps so that proper facilities can be provided to them there. In addition to it, I would like to tell the House that whenever there is flood or drought in any part of the