

on the 1st May, 1988 and ending on the 30th April, 1989 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1988 and ending on the 30th April 1989, and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted

12.25 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to take steps to remove drinking water scarcity in certain towns of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the rural and urban areas of Vidisha parliamentary constituency. Recently, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent proposals to the Central Government to instal new hand pumps and tube wells in the problem villages of Vidisha, Raisen and Sihore districts. Approximately, 700 villages are covered under the CSP Scheme. District twenty-point Committees and District drought vigilance Committees have also expressed deep concern over the alarming situation of drinking water in the important towns like Vidisha, Ganj Baloda, Sironj, Raisen, Sanchi, Begamganj, Mandideep etc. I urge upon the Central Government to take urgent action in this matter.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need for financial and other assistance to the farmers of Datia district of Madhya Pradesh affected by recent hailstorm

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hailstorm has badly damaged the standing crops in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh recently. Consequently, the crops have been destroyed in about 50 villages. Out of these in about 30 villages 80 to 100 per cent crops were destroyed. According to a Government estimate, crops worth more than Rs. 1.5 crores have been destroyed.

This area has been in the grip of drought for the second successive year and the farmers had toiled hard and were expecting a good crop. But the hailstorm has dashed all their hopes. Special relief programmes should be launched in this area immediately so that the small farmers and farm labourers are able to get employment. Due to lack of irrigation facilities Datia is a very backward district and the farmers are by and large dependent on nature here. In order to end this dependence, maximum irrigation projects should be undertaken in the area.

I demand that the incomplete canal under Rajghat irrigation project should be completed by starting large scale relief works. Besides, the crop insurance scheme should also be implemented effectively. Land revenue, bank loans, *takavi*, electricity bills and all other outstanding payments should be written off as far as possible or at least their recovery should be postponed temporarily.

- (iii) Need to set up a T. V. relay centre at Keonjhar in Orissa

\*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India had a proposal to set up some television relay centres in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period. Keonjhar was identified as the location of one such television centre. But it is regrettable that the television relay centre has not been set up at Keonjhar so far. Demand has been at different times for the installation of a television relay centre at Keonjhar, but it is unfortunate that steps have not been taken in that direction.

The two television centres located at Cuttack and Sambalpur are situated far away from Keonjhar. Therefore, the

\*Translation of the matter originally raised in Oriya.

people of Keonjhar are not able to see the programme shown by either of these two television centres. If a television relay centre is set up at Keonjhar, it will go a long way in the promotion of its culture and education. Besides providing entertainment programme, it will create awareness among the people. The poor and illiterate people will have clear idea of the centrally sponsored programmes which are being implemented in the backward area for the upliftment of those people. As such, I request that a television centre should be set up at Keonjhar during the 1988-89 financial year.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to supply raw material at cheap rates to the weavers in the country

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT (Barabanki): The weavers in the country are facing great hardship due to excessive increase in the prices of yarn. The prices have risen by 30 to 40 per cent whereas Government has not made any arrangements to provide raw material to the weavers particularly silk yarn. So the non-availability of raw material and the high prices is creating great difficulty in selling the finished products. Due to steep rise in the price of yarn, weaving work has almost come to a stand still and the families of weavers are on the verge of starvation. The yarn merchants are recovering loans advanced to the weavers, by auctioning their looms. We urge the Government to provide raw material to the weavers at cheap rates and make provision for the purchase of finished products.

(v) Need to introduce a train between Delhi and Lucknow via Chandausi

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): The Railways has progressed a lot in the last few years and has started some new trains. But Moradabad Division has remained neglected in this regard. No addition in trains has been made here since long. There is a grain market and a Railway Training College in Chandausi, in my constituency. The people of that area have been demanding for years that a train should be introduced between Delhi and Lucknow via Chandausi. It would not only immensely benefit them but the

earnings of the Railways will also increase thereby.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to introduce a train from Delhi to Lucknow via Chandausi, for the benefit of the people of my constituency.

[*English*]

(vi) Need to tone up the working of Public Sector Undertakings

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): These days, privatisation is looked upon as a solution to many problems. The country is following the concept of mixed economy, but at the same time, it is well understood that in certain spheres private sector will have no role of significance to play. Principles in our industrial policy resolutions, adopted from time to time are also quite indicative of the areas earmarked, by and large, for the two sectors. Yet, even in service-oriented areas, where profitability is not and should not be a criterion, people are seen recommending privatisation.

The State cannot and should not shirk away its responsibilities of playing its role in the mixed economy. In a particular field, if public sector has failed to deliver the goods, there is no rationale in handing over the job to private sector and admit the inefficiency of the public sector. If private sector can succeed in a given area, the public sector has got to succeed. Identification of causes and finding remedies to the same is what is required rather than introduce private sector, the moment a public undertaking fails. Failure of public sector, it is now well known, is basically on account of human negligence and lapses besides the element of extravagance prevailing therein. All these matters are curable. We should not burn the house in order to kill a rat.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to tone up the working of public sector undertakings.

(vii) Need to amend Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and Rules made thereunder

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): The Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and its subsequent amendment and the rules made thereunder by the State