

TURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to empower the Central Government to determine the conditions of service of the officers and employees of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to empower the Central Government to determine the conditions of service of the officers and employees of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I introduce the Bill.

12.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need to take steps to protect the agricultural labour from exploitations.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is basically an agricultural country but despite making lot of progress in scientific and technical fields it has not achieved the desired standard in agriculture. Consequently, most of the farming in our country is done in a traditional way even today and the agricultural labour is exploited. Undue advantage is taken of the unemployment problem in the country, and the agricultural labour is forced to work extra hours while they are not paid even the minimum wages prescribed by the Government. As the agricultural labour engaged in the agricultural sector are illiterate and unorganised, they are not able to

raise their voice collectively against this exploitation.

Therefore, I request the Government to take effective steps to protect them from exploitation and if required, a Central legislation should be enacted in this regard.

[*English*]

- (ii) Need to improve the functioning of telephone system in Calcutta.

✓ **KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) :** Telephone Exchanges at Calcutta are in very pitiable condition. Calls do not materialise for hours and exaggerated bills are presented to the consumers. There is also a long waiting list for the telephone connections. The functioning of Calcutta Telephone Exchange could be seen from its Telephone Directory which has lot of mistakes.

I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to improve the working of Calcutta Telephone Exchanges by toning up the administration and posting efficient technicians.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) Need to properly utilise uncultivated land in Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many rivers like Chambal, Kunwari, Asan, Saak Kuno, Parvati etc. flow through Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh. These rivers have rendered lakhs of hectares of land uncultivable due to soil erosion which is still continuing. The Government have formulated a scheme of spraying seeds in this region and have spent crores of rupees on it but all that money has gone waste. Had this money been spent on planting trees, the poor people would have got jobs and assets worth crores of rupees would have been created. I, therefore, request the Government that the land should either be distributed among the landless farmers or useful trees like Mango, tamarind, Jo shun, Mausammi, oranges, cashewnuts,

* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10-5-88.