

[*Translation*]

- (iii) Need to procure paddy by Food Corporation of India and other agencies at support price fixed by the Government

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

There is a bumper paddy crop as a result of good rains in most parts of the country and efficient working of the means of irrigation, but the paddy producers are not getting any benefit of this bumper crop. There is a great concern, restlessness and resentment among the paddy producers due to a very low and unremunerative price of paddy in the market. The F.C.I. has fixed Rs.142 per quintal as the support price of paddy this year. Although, this price is far below the expectation of the paddy producers, yet the F.C.I. has not been able to procure paddy even at this price on a large scale. As a result of this, the farmers have been compelled to sell their paddy at a price as low as Rs. 130 to Rs. 135 per quintal.

I request the Government to make arrangements soon on a war footing to ensure that F.C.I. and other agencies make purchases of paddy at the support price fixed by the Government and see that the paddy is not purchased at a price below Rs. 142 per quintal.

[*English*]

- (iv) Need to review the policy of constructing big dams in the light of two bursts in the Country and the heavy cost involved

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARY (Sikkim) : The construction of big dams, apart from being questioned technically also causes colossal inputs which has put into question the scientific basis behind the massive River valley projects such as Narmada and Koel-Karo projects.

We have had experience of 2 dam bursts in the country. There is also sufficient evidence, and warnings from scientists about linkage between dams and earthquakes. A leading Swiss seismologist, Dr. Tiedmann has

recently questioned the wisdom of constructing the Narmada project on this ground.

That apart, Narmada originally estimated to cost Rs. 4000-9000 crores is now likely to cost over Rs. 25000 crores. The project's benefits are hardly commensurate with the cost and the human miseries of over 1 million people facing displacement; 3.75 lakh hectares of forests will be submerged and about 80000 hectares of fertile agricultural land and grazing lands will be lost. A total of 219 villages will be submerged. The resettlement plans are tardy and farfetched from the realities of the fate of the oustees. Government must fully rehabilitate the oustees and also provide land for land. What is true of Narmada project applies with equal force to Koel-Karo Hydro-electric project in Bihar. This calls for full review.

- (v) Need to provide more funds for relief and rehabilitation of the cyclone affected people of West Bengal and Orissa

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : The devastating cyclone and floods that swept over West Bengal and Orissa have caused serious damage to lives and property in the entire belt. The districts of Madnapur, 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly in the West Bengal and Balasore and Cuttack in Orissa are worst affected. Several hundreds of men mostly fishermen are dead or even more missing. Crop on lakhs of acres of land had been completely damaged. Thousands of trees are uprooted. Thousands of houses are completely demolished and much more in number damaged. Even in such a situation relief and rehabilitation measures are too inadequate. Central aid is not only late but thoroughly insufficient. Actually, rehabilitation measures should be taken up on a war footing so that the people can cultivate rabi crop and try to come out of the hopeless situation. I request that the Central Government in consultation with the State Ministries of West Bengal and Orissa stand up to the occasion and render massive help for relief and rehabilitation for with.

- (vi) Need to take proper measures to stop acts of violence by extremist elements.

SHRI B.V. DESAI (Raichur) : There is a great danger on our borders with Pakistan,