

12.57 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Need to make proper lighting arrangements and to carry out necessary repairs on National Highway No. 28A connecting Muzaffarpur with Nepal border.**

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the Governments attention to an important matter under Rule 377.

The National Highway No. 28A, which connects Muzaffarpur with the border of Nepal, *via* Motihari—Rasaul, is full of pot holes and is in a dilapidated condition. There are no lighting arrangements on the entire Highway which remains plunged in darkness at night, due to which the people travelling on this route have to face a lot of problems and there are frequent accidents on this road which cause a great loss of life and property. Therefore, I would request the Government to make arrangements for the repair and lighting of highway No. 28A to prevent loss of life and property.

[*English*]

- (ii) **Demand for setting up a Cultural Centre at Mithila in North Bihar during Seventh Five Year Plan.**

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : According to present indications, the Central Government is planning to set up Cultural Centres in different regions of the country. These Centres will encompass the cultures of these areas. While some of these Cultural Centres will become operational even earlier, all of them will become ready by the end of the current Five-Year Plan, i.e., 1990.

These Cultural Centres are proposed at Patiala (for North Zone), Shantiniketan (East), Thanjavur (South), Udaipur (West), Allahabad (North-Central). Dimapur (North-East) and Nagpur (South-Central).

In this connection it is requested that a Cultural Centre be set up at Mithila in North Bihar also during the current Five-Year Plan. Mithila has been a seat of culture since time immemorial. Thousands of years ago, Raja Janak, the father of Sita, ruled this region and patronised the rich Mithila culture. Since then, the people of Mithila have preserved their culture despite heavy odds.

If a Cultural Centre is set up here, it will assure creative development and revival of various forms of art. This will also make the people of Mithila conscious about their cultural heritage.

This proposed Cultural Centre at Mithila would be at the central place of the eastern part of the country. Mithila (Madhubani) painting and handicrafts of Mithila are known world over. Similarly, other folklore and wedding customs of Mithila are quite different from other parts of the country.

There are a number of other strong reasons for setting up a Cultural Centre in Mithila either at Madhubani or at Darbhanga and I earnestly request the Centre to consider this proposal sympathetically.

13.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) **Need to examine the feasibility of generating hydro-electricity in Pithoragarh, U. P.**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : There is a great potential in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, specially Pithoragarh for generating hydro-electricity. Even after the take over of the whole Sharda river valley for the purpose of electricity generation, the Hydro Electricity Corporation has not made any headway and its work is still at the survey stage. The same is the condition of the minor power projects. During the last two years, the survey work regarding 15 minor power projects has been completed but the Uttar Pradesh Minor Hydel Power Corporation is showing laxity in the construction work.