

[SHRI ZAINUAL BASHER in the Chair]

12.44 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[Translation]

(i) Need to set up a Forest Protection Force equipped with modern communication system

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : The illegal felling of trees in the forests in the country is increasing and if Government fail to take stringent measures on priority basis then, certainly the entire land will be denuded by the end of next decade which will have a dangerously adverse effect on the rain fall and the ecology. The gangs involved in the illegal felling of trees have the protection of big people and carry fire arms with them. How can then the small number of forest staff, forest guards, rangers, etc., protect forests in such a situation? They either meekly witness the illegal felling of trees or overlook it or make hay white the sun shines. If anyone dared to prevent them, he did so at the cost of his life. There have been many cases in which the honest forest employees and officers were killed by these gangs, and their families are living like destitutes.

So, I suggest that a separate Forest Protection Force should be created for the protection of forests and be equipped with wireless sets, vehicles and the latest fire arms.

Besides, all the saw mill licences granted during the last three years should be cancelled.

[English]

(ii) Need to take up the works for development of backward areas of Chambal Valley and a portion of river Jamuna

SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad) : For the general development of the most

backward area of the Chambal Valley and a portion of river Jamuna, which is prone to serious crimes of dacoity, the Central Government had formulated a plan with a total outlay of more than Rs. 300 crores to change the character and texture of soil of the deep ravines upto certain distances on either sides of the aforesaid rivers by starting soil conservation operations, constructions of bridges and pucca roads, arranging lift irrigation for agricultural operations as also to make available drinking water for the entire area and also for the nearby villages and also establish industrial units so that the people who per force taken to dacoity and other crimes, may earn their livelihood through fair means and lead a peaceful life like law-abiding citizens. I understand that the funding and financing for this huge project were being made by the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and the Central Government in collaboration with the EEC. It is understood that the project has been cleared and initially funds amounting to Rs. 14 crores have been sanctioned for the construction of permanent bridges at Bateshwar and Pinahat of district Agra and overhead bridge on the railway line near Shikohabad junction from where road to Bateshwar emanates. But so far, the construction work has not been taken up. Further, as suggested earlier, the pucca bridge of Shankarpur on river Jamuna in the dacoity-infested area of Tehsil Fatehabad of district Agra has also not been sanctioned as yet. The Central Government is requested to ensure that these works of public importance are taken up immediately as dacoity menace has again shown signs of revival.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to provide special funds for Bundelkhand Development Authority for development of the region and for elimination of dacoits

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise the following matter under rule 377.

In 1953, the Central Government had constituted development authorities for the dacoit-infested areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan with the object of elimination of dacoits and for the economic, social and industrial development of these areas. In Madhya Pradesh, the Bundelkhand Development Authority was constituted for the development of 5 districts, but in the absence of any separate budget for it, no development work could be done. I, therefore, request that an allocation of at least Rs. 50 crores be made for this Authority in the Budget so that it may take up the development of the region and also eliminate dacoits.

(iv) Need to provide adequate funds for development of Bundi and Kota towns in Rajasthan as tourist resorts

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hadoti region in Rajasthan is a very important region from historical points of view. This area has a large number of ancient temples and forts, ponds and very beautiful Chambal caves and also the Dara Game Sanctuary which are highly praised by the tourists. The famous Bundi Palace and Fort in this area are worth visiting. Not only the paintings on the walls of the palaces and the forts built on a hill are unique but the forts and palaces itself are architectural marvels. The hill, on which the fort is located, is also very beautiful. The Bundi city can be converted into a centre of tourist attraction. The foreign tourists are never tired of praising this fort, the palaces and the ponds there. But unfortunately, due to the lack of funds with the State Government, many places of the Hadoti region like the Garhganj temple of Atru in Bundi, the Bhadadevara of Ramgarh, the Badoli temple of Rawat Bhat and the paintings of Alnia could not be declared and developed as tourist spots. The miniature paintings of Bundi and Kota are world famous and invaluable. The ancient wall paintings of many 'Havelis', Forts and Palaces are unique and worth seeing. The publicity and development of such places will earn foreign exchange for the country.

I demand of the Government of India to declare the above mentioned places of

Bundi and Kota as tourist spots and provide enough funds to the State Government for their development. The tourism corporation should also be encouraged to develop these places. Funds should also be made available for the development of the Dara Game sanctuary of Kota.

[English]

(v) Need to conduct survey to examine the feasibility of laying a railway line from Berhampur (Ganjam) to Dasapalla and to connect it with Khurda and Bolangir in Orissa

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Railway communication in Orissa is the least developed in the country. A techno-economic survey has been sanctioned to assess the feasibility for construction of a railway link between Khurda and Bolangir, in Orissa and the work has been entrusted to RITES and the survey is in progress. A Port-on-sea (close to Berhampur) is going to be completed within a few months. During the visit of late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi as well as the present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Ganjam District (Orissa), the people demanded to have a Railway line from Berhampur (Ganjam) to Dasapalla or Boudh to connect the above Railway line between Khurda and Bolangir, so that the five undeveloped districts of Orissa, which are the hinterland of Gopalpur Port, could be benefited and developed, making the Gopalpur Port self-sufficient.

The survey will cost about Rs. 25/- lakhs. However, it is stated that there is constraint of funds. The Orissa Government has communicated to Railway Department that it will bear the expenditure in case Centre is not going to provide the funds. The Ganjam District Planning Board also passed a resolution emphatically demanding the survey of the Railway line and make provision for expenditure from the District Planning funds. So, immediate necessary steps should be taken asking RITES to conduct the survey from Berhampur (Ganjam) to Dasapalla or Boudh to ascertain the feasibility.