

12.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Demand for a low-power T.V. Centre in Balasore district of Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): The people of Balasore District in Orissa are grateful to the Government of India for their welcome decision of establishment of one low power TV Relay Centre at the district headquarters town, Balasore, in the Seventh Plan period. But it is regretted that the TV centre has not been installed yet though according to the programme it was meant to be established in the 2nd year of Seventh Plan. The authorities had then opined that as the public undertakings engaged in producing the equipment, transformers etc., required for TV Centres, are not able to cope with the huge demand of the country. Fortunately, the position of availability of equipments, etc., is very comfortable now.

The Defence Ministry is going to establish one unique project of National Test Range near Balaipal-Bhograi area in the district of Balasore, which is estimated to cost about four hundred crores of rupees. Besides, about one hundred crores will be invested for setting up of various industries by the State Government of Orissa with seed money finance by the Centre, to provide employment to the displaced persons. In addition to it, the Asia's biggest tyre and tube manufacturing unit with latest technology would be established at Balasore by M/s Kesoram Cotton Mills, very soon at an estimated cost of about Rs. 200 crores.

Considering all these, the necessity of a TV Centre at Balasore has increased tremendously.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to take immediate action for establishment of a low power TV Centre at Balasore, before the end of this financial year 1986-87, without fail.

(ii) Demand for sanction to irrigation schemes in certain places in Jhalawar Parliamentary constituency by the Central Water and Power Commission

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): Jhalawar parliamentary constituency has probably the highest potential for irrigation in Rajasthan. It is possible to irrigate as much as over 75% of its total cultivated area, if water resources available in the area are properly and sincerely developed.

We have only 14% of the cultivated area of Jhalawar district, under irrigation at present, which is very much below average, even of the desert State of Rajasthan, the State average being 22%.

Three major irrigation schemes of Gagrin of Manohar Thana and of Kali-Sindh in Jhalawar district, and about an equal number of major schemes in Shahbad and Chabra sub-divisions of the rest of Jhalawar parliamentary constituency have not been approved as yet by the Central Water and Power Commission.

Similar is the fate of over one and a half dozen medium schemes pending approval.

In view of the indifference of Planning departments towards this area, I request the Minister of Water Resources to please sanction irrigation schemes in Jhalawar parliamentary constituency area, with a view to bring it on par with the rest of Rajasthan at least.

[Translation]

(iii) Need for measures to ensure payment of bonus and outstanding salary to workers of Modi Spinning and Weaving Mills and to take steps to reopen these closed units

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the three units of Modi Spinning and weaving Mills have been lying closed since 1983 and as a result, 7000 workers have been rendered jobless. Besides, the above Mill is not running its two units, Modi cloth and Modi thread to full capacity which has rendered 3000

workers jobless. In this way about 10,000 workers have become jobless and their families are on the verge of starvation. The bonus due to the workers for the year 1982 and 1983 has also not been paid to them.

The Government should take steps to ensure that the bonus and arrears of wages due to the workers are paid to them immediately, the three closed units of Modi Spinning and Weaving Mills be restarted immediately and partially running two units should be run on full capacity, otherwise all the five units of the above Mill should be nationalised by the Government immediately so that the families of 10,000 workers can be saved from starvation.

- (iv) Demand for financial relief to the drought-affected people of Vidarbha and Maharashtra and clearance of Irrigation schemes of Maharashtra pending with Central Government

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year due to poor rains, the entire Maharashtra State, particularly the Maharashtra and Vidarbha regions have been badly affected by drought. Now the condition is so acute that the inhabitants of these areas are facing a drinking water crisis.

The State Government is helping the victims with its limited resources, but that help is quite negligible. The State Government has requested the Central Government to provide a grant of Rs. 400 crores for this purpose, but as Central Government has not provided this grant the people are feeling disappointed and distressed.

The Central Government has forced the people of Maharashtra to depend completely on nature for irrigation purposes. The irrigation schemes which have been sent to the centre for approval, are pending for so many years. These schemes have not been finalised due to the objections of the Environment department or the Forest department or sometimes on the pretext of non-availability of funds, otherwise Maharashtra State would have been a leading State in agricultural production.

A very important Gosikhurd Irrigation scheme in Vidarbha is being neglected on

various pretexts. If this scheme is completed, about five lakh acres of land can be irrigated and the problem of drinking water in Chanderpur, Bhandara and Garhchiroli districts of Vidarbha region can also be solved to a great extent. Therefore, I humbly request the Hon. Prime Minister to provide sufficient funds to the famine stricken people of Vidarbha and Maharashtra and a special team be constituted to finalise the pending irrigation schemes in the Vidarbha region.

[English]

- (v) Need to notify the Dhobi community in Andhra Pradesh as Scheduled Caste

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The Dhobi community in Andhra Pradesh is socially, economically and educationally worse than the scheduled caste community. The Dhobi community occupy the lowest rung of the society since time immemorial. Taking into consideration its backwardness, its lowest status in the society and other disadvantages it suffers from, the Government of India included Dhobi community in the list of Scheduled Caste in 16 States of the country. But the Rajakas i.e. Dhobi of Andhra Pradesh are not included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Recognising this injustice done to the Dhobis of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has recommended to the Central Government to take necessary steps for inclusion of Rajakas in the list of Scheduled Castes. The Minister for Welfare has informed through his reply to my unstarred question No. 548 on 26th February, 1986 that the proposal is being considered along with similar other proposals in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The scheduled caste is a case notified under Art. 441 (1). The object of Art. 341(1) is to provide protection to the members of such notified castes having regard to the economic and educational backwardness from which they suffer. It is on this criteria the Dhobi community were included in the list of scheduled caste of India. Therefore, I urge the Government to notify Dhobi caste in Andhra Pradesh as scheduled caste.