

12.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]**(I) Demand for Steps for Prevention of Perennial floods and Drought In Orissa**

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Orissa is the only State in the country in which certain districts have always been either flood or drought prone. If these neighbouring districts are paired for prevention of flood and drought by inter-basin transfer of river water, the flood prone districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore and Sambalpur and adjoining drought stricken districts of Ganjam, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Koraput will be much benefited as in these drought prone districts the existing rivers are only monsoon rivers with meagre surface run off.

As a first step Suvarna Rekha, Mahanadi, Rushikulya, Bahuda, Ghodahad, Bansidhara should be linked up under water basin transfer of water to prevent floods in flood prone districts and provide irrigation in perennially drought prone districts of eastern Orissa through Garland Canal Scheme. Similarly, in western Orissa also the rivers should be linked to provide an inter-basin transfer of rivers of Tel, Ib etc. The water basins in Orissa have, thus, to be surveyed and linked.

In future this should form a part of All India or at least Inter-State Irrigation grids.

(ii) Demand for extending the micro-wave link upto Mangalore to enable people of Cannanore, Wynad and Kasargod to see Malayalam TV Programmes

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): At present facility for transmission of Malayalam programmes is

available only in certain transmission centres of Kerala. Thus a large number of people particularly in the districts of Cannanore, Wynad and Kasargod are not able to get benefit of this facility.

While national programmes telecast in Hindi and English have their importance, the utility of TV as a powerful medium will be reduced very much if the people do not get the facility to see the programmes in their mother tongue. In order to achieve this purpose it is highly essential to extend these facilities to all the areas in the State.

The micro-wave link has been extended from Trivandrum to Calicut recently. If this link is extended upto Mangalore people from all the districts mentioned above will be able to see programmes in Malayalam.

I would therefore request that immediate steps be taken to extend the microwave link to Mangalore so that Malayalam programmes can be seen in Cannanore, Wynad and Kasargod districts in Kerala also.

[*Translation*]**(iii) Demand to sanction the Mohane river project in Bihar**

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mohane river project of Bihar has been lying pending for the last one decade. This is situated in the plateau region of Gaya district adjacent to Chota Nagpur and has vast water resources. Mohane is perennial river and another important river is Dandva which is its tributary.

On the basis of a Government scheme, a huge dam will be constructed on Taitaria and Magra hill. More than 50 thousand hectares land will be irrigated under this scheme. This will also irrigate Mohanpur, Varachatti, Wazirganj, Atri, Bodhgaya and Fatehpur in Gaya district. These areas are such where the farmers have to depend solely on rains for their cultivations. If this