

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

project is completed, it will solve a big problem of lakhs of farmers and their lives will become prosperous. Besides there is most important proposal of power generation under this project. More than 100 mega watts electricity will be generated on completion of this dam. The importance of hydro-electricity cannot be ignored keeping in view the present day environment problem. Although every area of Bihar is comparatively very poor, yet among the Chota Nagpur, Santhal Paragna and Gaya district, this plateau region is worst hit by poverty. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should fulfil rest of the formalities of Mohane river project and complete the same.

(iv) Demand to abolish the taxes and levies on the musical instruments

SHRI U.H. PATEL (Bulsar): Music, as it is felt at times, is not a means of luxury and indulgence. Music is rather a means of entertainment, a supplement of science, a means of education which is enjoyed by the poor, the rich, young, old, men and women alike. Therefore in earlier times various facilities used to be given to the good musicians in order to encourage them and show respect for music. They used to enjoy special position in the palaces of kings and various kinds of concessions were given for the purchase of musical instruments like *tabla*, *dholak*, *harmonium*, *dilruba*, *sitar*, *sarod*, *violin* etc. and carry them from one place to another. But it is sorry state of affairs that now for the sale purchase and transport of such musical instruments, various kinds of taxes, levies etc. are imposed due to which they are becoming expensive. The poor and the middle-class people are unable to purchase the musical instruments. If this situation is allowed to continue, then music will gradually vanish. Keeping this thing in view, there is a world wide demand to abolish sales tax, income tax and all other taxes and levies on the sale, purchase and transport of all musical instruments. Besides, special concession should also be provided in order to encourage the usage of these instruments.

Therefore my submission to the Government is that immediate attention should be paid to it and this appropriate demand of the public should be acceded to at the earliest so that one may enjoy music to the maximum.

(v) Demand for re-scheduling the timings of 2 JPR and 5 JPR railway trains

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonapat): Thousands of daily rail passengers travel from Jeend, Safedon, Marlora and other stations to Panipat by 2 JPR train of North Railway. These passengers go to attend offices and work in factories. This train starts at 4 AM from Jeend and reaches Panipat at 6 AM. The daily passengers face a lot of problems due to the present timetable of this train because passengers have to reach the railway stations from remote villages in order to catch the train at 4 AM. and they reach Panipat quite early. Similarly, 5 JPR train starts at about 8.30 PM. from Panipat and after passing through various stations, reaches Jeend at 10.25 PM. The passengers travelling through this train reach their villages quite late at night from different railway stations and face a lot of problems.

If the timings of these two trains are re-scheduled and 2 J.P.R. train is started at 5.30 AM from Jeend and 5 JPR train at 6 PM from Panipat then thousands of daily rail passengers will be benefited. Therefore, the hon. Railway Minister may kindly issue order for the re-scheduling of timing of these two trains.

(vi) Demand for adequate financial assistance for proper maintenance of museums in the country

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Various kinds of museums are established in various places of the country by Government, semi-Government institutes and public trusts.