

2. The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
3. The Estate Duty (Distribution) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No body is allowed to speak. Next item. We will now take up matters under Rule 377. I have not allowed anybody. Matters under Rule 377.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : Sir, I want to point out a wrong statement made in a Statement under Rule 377 yesterday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give it in writing. We will see.

Matters under Rule 377.

Shri Zainul Basher.

12.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Demand for inclusion of Ghazipur and Ballia cities of Uttar Pradesh in the Ganga Action Plan

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 27 cities have been included under the Ganga Action Plan to check pollution of the Ganga river. The river Ganga covers the maximum distance in Uttar Pradesh. Only 6 cities of Uttar Pradesh have been included under this Plan, whereas the number of cities covered in West Bengal is 17. Scientific research undertaken in connection with the pollution of the Ganga river has revealed that the maximum pollution is in the Varanasi region. The areas from Allahabad to Ballia form part of the Varanasi region. Whereas Mirzapur and Varanasi have been included in the Action Plan, Ghazipur and Ballia cities have been left out. Farrukhabad and Mirzapur of Uttar Pradesh, Chhapra of Bihar and a number of small cities of West Bengal have been included in the plan by treating them as first class area. Cities of Ghazipur and Ballia are also at par with these cities.

There is a great resentment among the local people due to non-inclusion of Ghazipur and Ballia in the Ganga Action Plan as Ghazipur is located on the banks of the Ganga. Effluents from the opium and sugar factories and breweries in the district as also the city's sullage are released into the river. The same is the situation of Ballia city. The pollution of the Ganga has started telling upon the health of the people living on its banks right from Varanasi to Ballia. Recently, the scientists had expressed their apprehension that an epidemic may break out in Varanasi due to pollution of the Ganga which may engulf the entire country. I would, therefore, request the Hon. Prime Minister to take steps to include Ghazipur and Ballia cities of the Varanasi region in Ganga Action Plan.

- (ii) Need for the exclusion of 'Mochis' from the list of Scheduled Castes in Gujarat Except in District Dang

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA (Dhamdhuka) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, *Mochis* in Gujarat are not considered untouchables, because this caste is not untouchable in the State and economically also they are many times better off than the Harijans. In the rural as well as in urban areas, they live with high caste people. There is no difference in the standard of living of the high caste people and *Mochis* and the high caste people do not treat them as lower caste.

In Maharashtra, the *Mochi* caste has been included in the list of Scheduled castes and they work on raw hides and are treated as untouchables. When Dang district was included in the Gujarat State, the court for the sake of a few *Mochis* of this district ordered that all *Mochis* living in Gujarat should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes on technical grounds. As a result of it, a great injustice is being done to the Harijans of Gujarat, because most of the benefits which would have gone to them under the provisions of the constitution are now being cornered by the *Mochis* because of better education and access to the Administration. Their standard of living is also good and they are enjoying all the benefits meant for the Harijans.

Therefore, *Mochis* should be excluded