

12.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to clear Sone Canal Project and to provide necessary finances for it

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna): In previous sessions I have raised the issue of modernisation of Sone Canal. The Minister assured in the last session that this matter will be taken up soon. Recently a news item was published in a local daily (Indian Water) that this project has been shelved. If this project is not taken up, quite a vast area of Bihar will be turned into a desert. I urge the Central Government to intervene in this matter and get this project cleared from Planning Commission and necessary finances allocated for it.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need to direct the Government of Rajasthan to advance funds to the Government of Haryana for construction of the part of Gang Canal link in Haryana

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): The Gang Canal at Bikaner was constructed nearly 60 years ago. That is why its portion which lies in Punjab is broken, due to which it is not carrying its share of 2750 cusecs of water from Harike barrage.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

At present, this canal is carrying only 1850 cusecs of water which is production-wise causing a great loss to the farmers. Keeping in view the aforesaid points, the Government of Rajasthan started constructing a canal named Gang Canal link from R.D. 529 of Harike barrage to Indira Gandhi Canal, in order to carry the water-share of the Gang Canal. The construction work of the portion of this link canal, which lies in Rajasthan, will be completed in the year 1986-87. A small portion of this canal lies in Haryana also for the construction of which the Rajasthan Government had to pay a sum of Rs. 2 crore and 30 lakhs to the Government of Haryana but so far this payment has not been made.

It will cause delay in starting this link. The repair work of the portion of the Gang Canal, which lies in Punjab, is possible only after the link starts.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that Government of Rajasthan should be asked to complete the construction work of this canal. If the construction work of the portion of this canal which lies in Haryana, is not completed within the prescribed limit, the farmers who depend on the Gang Canal will be ruined and for this the Central Government will be responsible.

- (iii) Demand for more public call offices in Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani and Ganjam districts of Orissa

*SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): The Government of India has undertaken a massive programme for the expansion of the telecommunication network in the country. But it is regrettable that the present state of affairs in regard to the functioning of the telecommunication department in Phulbani and Bolangir districts in Orissa is far from satisfactory. It is not possible to contact the people in Bhubaneswar, the State capital of Orissa from Phulbani even after waiting for hours after booking the call.

The Government have banned the opening of new PCOs and BPOs in the country till 1990. The development of Sonapur, Binka areas of Bolangir districts and Kalahandi and Phulabani districts of the State will be retarded if this ban is enforced. Those are the backward districts in Orissa. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to reconsider the decision keeping in view the rapid development of the State. I, therefore, demand that more number of Public Call Offices and Branch Post Offices should be opened in Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani and Ganjam districts of Orissa during the 7th Plan period.

[English]

- (iv) Need to release natural gas for distribution to Bombay citizens through Bombay High Gas Company

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): The feasibility of distri-

*This speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

buting associated gas released from Bombay High oil wells through underground pipeline network to the citizen of Bombay is engaging the attention of the Maharashtra Government since March 1984. A steering group appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri S. S. Marathe recommended allocation of 0.7 million M³/day of natural gas for city, to Bombay Gas Company for gas supplies to 3,00,000 domestic and 0.7 million M³/day of natural gas for the suburbs. The report has been forwarded by the State Government to the Petroleum Ministry with their recommendation for release of natural gas for the project. Release of gas for city piped supply will substitute use of kerosene in the domestic sector and will give relief to many of the LPG cylinder users in Bombay. I urge upon the Petroleum Ministry to release this natural gas for distribution to Bombay citizen through the Bombay Gas Company.

- (v) Need to took into the grievances of jute growers and the workers engaged in jute mills in the country

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the august House to the strike of Jute mill workers and the Bandh of Rural Bengal.

A grave situation exists in West Bengal as Jute Corporation of India has failed to stop distress sale of raw jute, as a result of which actual jute growers of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Orissa are not getting the support price of raw jute announced by the Government of India. Further, the jute industry of West Bengal is facing a severe crisis, because of closure and lock-outs, out-moded machineries and shrinkage of market. Liberal import of synthetic fibres has hard hit the industry, as demand for raw jute goods is declining sharply. Hence the workers of Jute Industries are observing a hartal on 7th August (today). The peasants of rural Bengal are also observing a Bandh demanding among other things—nationalisation of jute mills, modernisation of plants and machineries in jute industries and more purchase of raw jute by the Jute Corporation of India, etc.

I would request the Government to

accept these demands and make a statement on the Floor of the House.

- (vi) Need to start Navodaya Schools throughout the country at district level particularly in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Sir, I would like to put forward my opinion and an appeal on the idea to start Navodaya schools at the district level throughout India with a special mention of the situation in Andhra Pradesh. This is important in the context of the A.P. Government refusing to take up the proposal of Navodaya schools in A.P. The A.P. State Government despite the best efforts of the Centre to have these schools and despite the non-existence of language problem has not accepted this proposal. The language Hindi as is the focal point of the reasons given is not really the problem of significance. The major advantage of the proposal is the uniformity in education that would be brought about.

Keeping in view the strong interest of the Centre and the stand taken by certain State Governments we should continue our efforts. This can be done either by convincing the State Government or providing the same opportunity to certain private voluntary organisations or Government of India may set up such schools directly on the pattern of Central schools. It is my sincere suggestion that the Centre should consider these alternatives. I emphasise the importance of this as it would not only keep up the objective but also provide an opportunity to enterprising people who as heads of private institutions want to make their contribution in this regard.

- (vii) Need to entrust the work of assessing the crop losses under the comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme to Gram Panchayats

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, comprehensive crop insurance scheme has been introduced by the Government in the country in the interest of agriculture and the agriculturist. Peasantry as a class has pinned great hopes in this scheme. But the way the scheme is being worked out most of the farmers who