

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do appoint Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith vice Prof. Madhu Dandavate resigned."

The motion was adopted.

13.42 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Damage Caused due to recent hailstorm in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra and need to provide necessary relief to the people

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : It has been brought to the notice of the Central Government that due to recent hailstorm in many districts of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State, the rabi crop has been severely affected. The whole of the orange crop has been badly destroyed in the affected areas. In Nagpur district alone in 200 villages the loss to rabi crop and orange crop is 100 per cent. It will not be out of context to mention here that such disaster never took place in Vidarbha region during the last 70 years.

While visiting the villages one cannot see the miseries of the affected poor farmers. Present norms of help are completely inadequate. I welcome the gesture of Hon. Prime Minister who has shown sympathy to the poor sufferers by sending a cheque of Rs. 20 lakhs from the Prime Minister's relief fund. The area has not been covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme. Only a few who got the loan are covered and the rest have been left out. Orange which is a main source of economy in Vidarbha region is not covered under any Insurance Scheme.

I earnestly request the Central Government to send a team of experts to assess the damage caused due to recent hailstorm and provide all necessary help on war footing.

[Translation]

- (ii) Reported reduction in sanctioned grant for Tanda Thermal Project, Faizabad, UP and urgent need to complete the project

SHRI R. P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance under rule 377. A Thermal Power Project of 400 megawatt is under execution in tehsil Tanda in Akbarpur parliamentary constituency in district Faizabad of Uttar Pradesh. One unit was scheduled to be commissioned in 1982 but due to certain reasons that unit could not be commissioned within the scheduled time. On the occasion of foundation stone laying ceremony of that project it was announced that one of its units would be commissioned in 1984. But that target also could not be achieved. It is learnt from some sources that the amount allocated for the Tanda Thermal project is being diverted and it is quite likely that the work on the project might come to a standstill.

Sir, there is wide-spread resentment among the local people due to this cut in the allocation. The said project must be completed in public interest. So, I would make an impassioned appeal to the Government of India not to effect any cut in the allocation to the Tanda Thermal Project, Faizabad and get the work completed without delay so that generation of power is started and our state is benefited by it. Besides, the affected farmers and the educated employed of the area should be provided jobs, according to their qualification, on priority basis in the project so that resentment is removed.

- (iii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Rajasthan for giving relief to farmers affected by heavy rainfall and hailstorm

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Under rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recent hailstorm that lashed a number of districts in Rajasthan.

The districts of Kota Bundi and Jhalawar have been severely affected by heavy rainfall and hailstorm this year. Thousands of cattle-heads have perished and standing crops have been damaged due to which the farmers are facing acute financial difficulty. If the Government get the damage to the crops assessed, it will come to crores of rupees.