

Now that the Government has imported rice and other essential commodities from Thailand and other countries and the position improved, I request the Government to immediately restore the quota of rice, wheat, palm oil to Karnataka so that the card holders get their usual quota.

[*Translation*]

- (vii) Demand for examining the Technical feasibility of schemes submitted by Bihar Housing Board before loans are advanced to it by HUDCO

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice under Rule 377 that India is a vast country having a population of 76 crores where 30% people are without their own houses. About 50 thousand people in various cities of Bihar have been waiting for the allotment of plots/houses after having registered their names with the Bihar State Housing Board and after making payment of advance money. But the Government has failed to do any thing in this regard. The Bihar State Housing Board constructs houses and develops plots with the help of loans given by HUDCO under the Works and Housing Department of the Government of India. This Board undertakes the responsibility of implementing schemes costing crores of rupees, but the technical staff available with them for this purpose is quite inadequate. As a result, the scheme launched in 1978 has not yet been completed. Construction work of thousands of houses which had been undertaken is still incomplete and the allotment work has not yet been started. The Housing Board undertook a scheme costing Rs. 65 crores in 1987-88 and 1988-89 to carry out this responsibility. The Board in its 118th meeting held on 27.2.88 proposed the setting up of one zone, two electrical Divisions and one civil division. This proposal was first approved by the Technical Cell and special committee consisting of Development Commissioners and MLA's after thorough investigation. In pursuance of the provisions of the Act, the Board sent this proposal for approval of the Central Government, the approval is still awaited. Thus the Government is creating hurdles for the Housing Board in achieving its

targets. As a result of this, schemes worth crores of rupees started on loans from HUDCO are likely to be in doldrums. Therefore I would urge HUDCO to go into the strength of the Technical cadre before advancing loans. If there is need to strengthen the Technical Cadre for getting the scheme implemented, that should be done first.

- (viii) Demand for steps for a permanent solution of Flood Problem in North Bihar

[*English*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is understood that the Bihar Government has urged the Government of India to treat the annual occurrence of floods in the State as a 'national problem' and to bear the responsibility for finding its solution.

12.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

In this connection, the State Government has moved the Centre for a loan of Rs. 100 crores for strengthening and raising of embankments and undertaking anti-erosion measures.

It is requested that the Government of India should grant this loan to Bihar at an early date so that work may be undertaken soon after the rains are over.

But the only permanent solution to the problem is 'high multi-purpose dams' in Nepal from where the flood causing rivers flow into North Bihar.

The Government of India should take up this matter with the Government of Nepal on an urgent basis. Since the expenditure on this project would be colossal, the Governments of India and Nepal should seek the cooperation of international agencies in finding resources.

At the same time, the Government of India should take up the issue construction of a barrage on Kosi at Dagmara with the help of the Government of Nepal at an early date.