

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

11.10 hrs.

[English]

Thirteenth and Fourteenth Reports

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) :
Sir, I beg to present the following Reports
(Hindi and English versions) of the Public
Accounts Committee :

- (1) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 216th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding Drawback Payments.
- (2) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 180th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding Union Excise Duties—Exemption of Goods falling under Tariff Item 68.

11.09 hrs.

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY
OF INDIA BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANS-
PORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : Sir, I beg to
move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide
for the constitution of an authority for the
regulation and development of inland water-
ways for purposes of shipping and naviga-
tion and for matters connected therewith or
incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce
a Bill to provide for the constitution of
an authority for the regulation and devel-
opment of inland waterways for purposes
of shipping and navigation and for
matters connected therewith or incidental
thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I introduce the
Bill.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (1) Need to send a Central Medical team to Shahjahanpur, U.P. to prevent the spread of diseases like Malaria, Cholera etc.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA
(Shahjahanpur) : I draw the attention of the
Government towards the drought prevailing
in certain districts of Uttar Pradesh, specially
in Shahjahanpur. The paddy, sugarcane and
Kharif crops are badly damaged due to lack
of rainfall. Paddy transplantation also
could not be done. A very serious situation
is being faced by the people of Shahjahanpur
as epidemics like Malaria, Cholera and
dysentery are spreading in every village result-
ing in deaths. Immediate relief measures be
taken, a Central team be sent to assess the
situation and Central Medical team with
doctors and medicines be rushed to
Shahjahanpur. Adequate facilities for pure
drinking water be done on war footing so
that the spread of the diseases is checked.

- (ii) Widening of National Highway No. 43
in Orissa

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) :
Koraput district is the largest district in
Orissa and second largest district in the
country. Large number of projects namely
Upper Kolab and Upper Indravati Multi-
purpose projects are under construction by
the State Government in addition to some
already there. The National Aluminium
Factory which is the largest of its kind is
also under construction in the district. There
is no railway line linking these projects and
as such the heavy machines required for these
projects are being taken on the National
Highway 43 from Vizianagram railway station
in Andhra Pradesh. The road which passes
over Eastern Ghat Mountains is very narrow,
specially on the hill slopes. Large sized
trailors carrying heavy machinery of these
projects pass on this road with great difficulty
and at times stop at inconvenient places and
thereby block the entire traffic. The road
on plains also is very narrow in Orissa
compared to that of Madhya Pradesh. The

[Shri K. Badhani]

widening work undertaken by the department is very slow. I draw the attention of the Ministry of Transport to expedite the work as early as possible to enable the traffic to pass smoothly and also allow the projects to take their heavy machinery without trouble and any hindrance.

[Translation]

(iii) Demand for a paper Mill or fertiliser plant at Maharajganj in North Bihar

SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377 in this House. Bihar is the most backward State from industrial point of view, and the area lying north of Ganga in Bihar State is still more backward. It will be correct to say that it has suffered industrial set back after independence because most of the 31 old sugar mills in this area are lying closed and the remaining ones are sick. The result is that the farmers have stopped growing sugarcane and many more intend to do so because the mill-owners could not pay the dues to the farmers.

No other big industry is there in this area. Almost all the public sector industries are located in South Bihar only. With the construction of the broadgauge rail line and 110 Megawatt power plant at Kanti setting up of medium and large industries in this area has become essential from the regional development point of view as well as in the public interest. I, therefore, demand setting up of a Paper Factory (for which raw material is available) or a chemical fertilizer factory (as the farmers of this district and the adjacent districts are suffering heavily in the matter of crop production) in this most backward area of this district and adjoining areas.

I, therefore, request the hon. Prime Minister to sanction setting up of at least one of the aforesaid two industries in Maharaj Ganj so that this backward area could be developed.

[English]

(iv) Construction of a bridge on 'Aik Nallah' near village Arnia Tehsil Bishna, J&K.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) : There is no bridge on 'Aik Nallah' near

village Arnia, Tehsil Bishna, district Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir State. The road, which is maintained by the Defence Department remains cut off during rainy season and the people in that area are put to a great inconvenience.

It is requested that a bridge near village Arnia may kindly be got constructed at the earliest.

(v) Permanent steps needed to save the Farmers of Bhadrak Constituency of Balasore district, Orissa from recurring floods

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI (Bhadrak) : Thousands of acres of cultivable land are every year affected by floods in Balasore district, Orissa. This year an unprecedented flood occurred in Baitarani river which caused great damage to cultivated land in as many as 23 blocks in that district. About one lakh of the total population in my Bhadrak constituency in Balasore district are affected by the recent flood. Most of the people living in this district are poor and small and marginal farmers. Agriculture is their only source of livelihood. Therefore, it is necessary to take urgent measures to control flood in that river. Unless some permanent measures are taken the flood cannot be controlled. Therefore, I suggest to the Government of India to take the following measures as early as possible :

1. Minor Irrigation schemes on all the feeding rivers of Baitarni should be executed.
2. A dam should be constructed at Bhimkund on the river Baitarni.
3. The flood water of river Baitarni should be channelised into Salandi river.
4. Kanti Ghai on Baitarni left should be closed.
5. Both sides of the embankments of river Genguti should be raised upto OAE standard.
6. Steps should be taken to induce more flood water into river Baitarni to reduce the devastation of river Kochila.