

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Supply of good quality coal by rail to medium-scale industries in Aligarh**

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh) : There are a number of medium scale industries in Aligarh but due to non-availability of electricity and coal, production worth crores of rupees has been stalled. Coal transported through trucks costs more. Moreover, it is difficult first to get railway wagons and even those who get wagons somehow are supplied sub-standard coal. Sir, I would request the Central Government to make arrangements for the supply of good quality coal through railways.

- (ii) **Demand for a new railway line along Indira Canal**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance in the House. A new railway line should be laid along the Indira Canal. The length of this line will be about 500 Kms and it will be the most important line in the country in terms of security and revenue because the Indira Canal is one of the most important Canals of the world. The capacity of this Canal will be 18,500 cusecs of water. Therefore, the area irrigated by Canal will become the granary of foodgrains and fodder. Moreover, valuable wood will also be available from this area. A large stretch of hilly area in Rajasthan will also be covered by this Canal and stones of many varieties are found in abundance there. So, this railway line will prove vital for the transportation of foodgrains, fodder, valuable wood and stones to all parts of the country. This railway line will connect six districts of Rajasthan, namely, Sri Ganganagar, Churu, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur and scores of other big cities. I would, therefore, like to draw the attention of the Government and the hon. Railway Minister towards this vital railway line and request him to make an announcement in this regard in the House.

- (iii) **Effective steps needed to save Monghyr and Begusarai in Bihar from the fury of floods every year.**

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the sudden and devastating floods in the Ganga, Keol and Harohar rivers in Bihar, soil erosion on a large scale is taking place and there has been heavy loss of life and property. This is tragic happening in the history of the last many years. Thousands of acres of land has been reduced to sand and useless mud has been submerged. Due to soil erosion, thousands of houses have been washed away. Besides, about 50 to 60 thousand people belonging to Khutaha Ramchandrapur, Mohanpur, Walipur, Rahatpur, Akbarpur, Bijliya, Khabhi areas of Monghyr and Begusarai District are facing starvation and housing problems. A grave crisis of transport, drinking water and medical aid has been created in the villages coming under Panchayats of Reartal.

I have been drawing the attention of the State Government of Bihar to these tragic incidents in Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977 and I have also been bringing this to the notice of the Government of India from 1980 to 1984. In the absence of a long-term and time-bound programme, this has become a national problem. Although the Centre and the State Government have spent crores of rupees under the short-term and emergency schemes to save the life and property there but the common man did not get any assistance. Instead, they have benefited only the engineers and the contractors. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government and request that a long-term effective scheme be formulated to give relief to the people affected by soil erosion caused by the rivers in the districts of Monghyr and Begusarai.

[*English*]

- (iv) **Promotion of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir**

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : The tourist industry in