

12.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) **Need to sanction a thermal power plant in Rajasthan**

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY (Bikaner): There is acute shortage of power in Rajasthan and the State has to ask for power from other States.

Two years ago, when Neyveli Corporation was asked to instal 240 megawatt thermal plant but the work has not been started as yet.

There was another project of the Government of India to instal a 210+210 megawatt thermal plant at Suratgarh, but it is also hanging in the balance. It appears that the Government of India does not want to implement the project of Suratgarh thermal plant.

The projects of thermal plants have been sanctioned for all other States of the country, but the Central Government is indifferent towards Rajasthan, which is very backward in so far as the question of power is concerned.

So I urge the Government of India to sanction a new thermal plant at Suratgarh in Rajasthan in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(ii) **Need to fill up S.C/S.T. quota in Government services from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates only**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): The provision of reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was made in the Constitution after much consideration. It should not only be continued but some improvements should also be made therein. Some cases has come to light that in some States although eligible persons were available for reserved posts yet they were neither recruited not promoted. Candidates of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are deprived of their right and re-

served posts are filled with general candidates. When there is provision of reservation, then it is not justified to postpone it. Even if the candidate of scheduled caste or scheduled tribe is not readily available, it would be better to wait for the candidate belonging to the same category. For reserved posts, only reserved candidates should be called. In all the departments of Uttar Pradesh, posts covered under the reserved quota are lying vacant and recruitment and promotion has been held in abeyance, although the candidates belonging to the reserved category are readily available. Promotions have been held up to class I posts under reserved quota. Recently, Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court has given verdict in favour of the employees of the Department of Electricity but the Government filed a special appeal in the Supreme Court against the legitimate demands of the reservation which has also been dismissed. So I submit to the Government that reservation quota should be increased. Candidates from reserved quota should be promoted and called for recruitments on reserved posts and if there is delay in recruitment and promotion, then action should be taken to fix responsibility for doing so and person found guilty should be punished.

(iii) **Demand for serial spray of insecticides in Ganganagar district of Rajasthan and for giving subsidy to the farmers**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to raise this matter under Rule 377.

In the area of Ganga canal, Bhakhra canal and Indira canal at Shri Ganganagar district, cotton is cultivated in a vast area. Cotton crop is always damaged by insects. So it is necessary to spray insecticides to kill insects. It is not advisable to spray insecticides by hand because the same is not very effective and moreover it is dangerous also. Every year, there are some mishaps and sometimes deaths also take place. The crops are also damaged. Many years have passed, but the Government has made no arrangement for the aerial spray of insecti-

cides. The Central and the State Governments both are indifferent to it.

12.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

So I urge the Central Government to make arrangements for the serial spray of insecticides in Ganganagar district urgently and full subsidy should be given to the farmers. Most of the expenditure should be borne by the Central as well as the State Government.

[English]

(iv) Need for reduction in the import of edible oil

SHRI VIJAY N PATIL (Erandol): The import of edible oil has been increasing every year for the last ten years, due to growing demand and shortage of its supply. While the demand is growing due to increase in population, the domestic oilseeds production has shown no worthwhile improvement. The higher imports are also on account of allotment of imported edible oil to the vanaspati industry and the public distribution system.

The country cannot afford to spend Rs. 1,000 crores in foreign exchange to meet its edible oil requirements in view of acute shortage in foreign exchange balances. Further, imports have to be restricted, to save the country's oilseeds economy and farmers' interest. Steps must be taken to curtail supply of edible oil, with subsidy given to the public distribution system. There is a strong need for the vanaspati industry to use non-conventional oils like cottonseed oil, rice bran oil and other oils. I urge upon the Minister to take immediate steps.

[Translation]

(v) Demand to connect Agra with other parts of the country by more trains and to increase reservation quota etc.

SHRI NIHAR SINGH JAIN (Agra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, everyone knows that

Agra is a famous tourist resort because of Tajmahal and other historical monuments and different commercial potentialities 67 percent (nearly 10 lakh) of the total foreign tourists visiting India and lakhs of domestic tourist visit Agra every year, but as compared to large number of tourists, the facilities provided by the railway department are negligible. So, I would like to submit to the Ministry of Railways that they should try to provide following facilities:—

1. A train should be started from Agra for Allahabad High Court which should reach Allahabad in the morning.
2. Agra should be linked directly with the main cities of South India like Bangalore etc.
3. There is great inconvenience owing to the limited berths for reservation at Agra, in the two trains -- Ganga-Yamuna and Avadh Express, which runs from Mathura and Ratlam to Lucknow via Agra. Reservation quota for 2nd class should be increased and one AC sleeper should also be attached.
4. A stoppage should be provided to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Express at Agra to provide facility to the tourism.
5. Reservation facility should be provided from Agra, Mathura and Bharatpur in Frontier mail and Delux from Agra to Bombay.
6. Facilities should be provided to daily passengers from Agra to Gwalior to travel in the morning.
7. Until a direct train starts from Agra to Howrah, reservation quota should be increased for passengers of Agra in all the main trains going to eastern parts of India from Tundla.