

12 32½ hrs.

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

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need to provide daily Vayudoot service between Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD (Giridih): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people of Dhanbad are grateful to the Government for starting the vayudoot service for that place. This service is very useful to the people residing in that area. But at present, it is only available for three days a week—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and many times it is cancelled without prior notice; due to which passengers of this route have to face a great difficulty.

I urge the Government to provide daily vayudoot service between Calcutta-Dhanbad-Patna and adequate facilities to the Vayudoot passengers.

[*English*]

- (ii) Need to develop certain towns of Ganjam district in Orissa under the Integrated Development Scheme

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Ganjam District in Orissa is having large number of small and medium towns and highest number of notified Area Councils in the State. But, unfortunately, under the Centrally sponsored scheme of integrated development of small and medium towns, not a single town of this District has been taken up under the scheme and no project report has been sponsored for any such towns for development. Towns such as Aska, Bhajanagar, Purusottampur, Polasara, Buguda, Hinjilikatu, Khalikote and Bellagantha ought to have been included under the scheme by sending the project reports prepared by Orissa Government and to be approved and sanctioned by the Central Government. I would urge upon Central Government to help in the development of these towns by approving the project reports and sanction necessary amount for their development.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) Need to survey the rocky terrain in Chota Nagpur area for locating water resources

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): The Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India should survey the rocky terrains of Chota Nagpur in Bihar, where there is perennial scarcity of drinking water and due to geographical conditions of that area only lift irrigation schemes can be successful there.

Very little work has been done in connection with locating water resources in the rocky terrains of Chota Nagpur, Santhal Pargana and Gaya districts. In these areas, there are a number of rivers, small and big, which get dried up during the summer season, but there is a possibility of finding large quantities of water on the river beds. River Nilajan, which is also known by the name of river Phalgu, has a religious importance in Gaya and it is famous by the name of 'Antah-Salila'. Its river-bed has large deposits of water. The fields on the bank of this river alongwith thousands of hectares of land can be irrigated by setting up high tension pumping sets.

Therefore, I would like to request that the Ministry of Water Resources should survey the rocky terrain in order to locate the water resources.

[*English*]

- (iv) Demand to grant diplomatic status to African National Congress

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): India's bond with the freedom struggle of South African people against the racist regime of South Africa is very deep and our people and our Government have always stood in this battle on the side of South African people. This year being the 70th birthday of Nelson Mandela, one of the world's most revered fighter for the cause of freedom and equality of all people, I request the Government of India to accord diplomatic status to African National Congress as our nation's birthday gift to him. The Government of India had

already accorded the same kind of diplomatic status to PLO. Therefore, I believe that there is no difficulty in taking this decision and I urge upon the Government to do so without any delay.

- (v) **Need to check Stinger anti-aircraft missiles from falling into the hands of terrorists**

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad): The report in the *Statesman* of June 29, 1988, that US made Stinger anti-aircraft missiles are finding their way into the arms black market from the Afghan rebels for whom they were meant, should cause grave concern here. The possibility of either Punjab terrorists acquiring them by themselves or getting them through Pakistan cannot be ruled out. If so, these terrorists get a further capability of threatening Indian aviation. The stinger missiles being portable and sure to destroy the aircraft at which they are aimed: if these aircraft are low flying, could even be deployed to threaten civilian aircraft near airports. The report also says that some countries have already acquired these Stingers from the Afghan black-market. The Government should refer the matter to the United States administration and raise the grave threat it holds to air passengers and aircraft in this country and ask the US to get back all the Stingers it had deployed in Afghanistan.

- (vi) **Need to provide concessional loans to the Barge owners in Goa and declare barge Industry as export-oriented industry**

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): The Barge owners operating barges in Goa have been playing a vital role in export of iron ore from Goa. They have been providing employment to more than 25,000 workers, directly and indirectly.

However, recently the business volume has drastically decreases by over 50% due to reduction in volume of export of iron ore from Goa. Secondly, the freight rates have remained static since 1985 whereas the cost of all inputs required for operation of barges have gone up by at least 7% to 40%. Annual repairs and maintenance, which is a statutory requirement, have gone

up by 60% due to increase in the price of steel plates which is a basic material required for the maintenance of hull of the vessel. Wages of the workers have also registered a steep rise of about 100% compared to the wages payable to the workers in 1984-85.

In the circumstances, since barge trade is in a financial crisis the Union Government should come to the rescue of the barge owners. They should be provided with soft loans and concessions in interest. The industry should be declared as 100% export industry for the purpose of obtaining the benefits available to a 100% export industry

- (vii) **Need to open more Petrol and Diesel pumps in Aliganj in District Etah of U.P.**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Sir, Aliganj in District Etah, which is a block and Tehsil headquarters is a backward area. Presently, there is only one diesel pump there. Recently an Indian Oil Petrol Pump has been opened and has been allotted to the same party owning the diesel pump.

With the opening of new roads, such as Aliganj-Mainpuri, Aliganj to Farukhabad and Aliganj to Sarai Aghat etc, besides Aliganj to Karoli, Aliganj to Kanpil and Aliganj to Patiali, there all-round increase in traffic, there is also the rising number of tractors, pump sets and general growth in population. Therefore, necessity for an additional diesel and petrol pump is being greatly felt.

In 1986, applications for the allotment of Diesel pump at Sarai Aghat, Dhumri, Etah and Sahawar were invited but no decision has been taken so far in the matter.

I would request the Government to consider the question of opening additional, more petrol and Diesel pumps in District Etah, specially at Aliganj.