

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, in the other House, they are very relaxed...

(*Interruptions*)

They do everything, they talk about everything, discuss everything. Our blood pressure is always going high. Why should we not...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We have allowed everything everyday here.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We should relax.

MR. SPEAKER : We allow everything. I agree with you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There is too much of tension and quarrelling about.

MR. SPEAKER : You are an elder Member of the House. Please convey this message to all of them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am conveying it to everybody including you. Sir !

MR. SPEAKER : I never get high blood pressure, My blood pressure is always 120.20 ?

Now we shall take up matters under rule 377.

12.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(i) Need to lay down rules and regulations for safety of ferry boats

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : The large number of incidents year after year, of boats capsizing in the Ganga and other larger rivers of the country underline the need to ensure at least minimum safety standards in ferries along all major rivers in the country. Though these are State matters, the Centre can help the States by preparing model safety regulations in licens-

ing boats and in maintaining them. The practices of overloading these boats, particularly during festivals and *melas*, is also widespread. There has not been any national effort so far to focus attention on the problems of plying boats in river ferries and convention is allowed to rule with disastrous consequences. As the people who die in boat mishaps are poor, their plight does not receive national attention as does a plane crash, for instance. The Centre should, therefore, call for a conference of State officials and Ministers to lay down safety rules and regulations and to ensure that ferry boats are not overloaded.

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the Chair]

[*Translation*]

(ii) Need to adopt measures to save Bihar and other parts of the country from floods, droughts, etc.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

Hardly any year passess when the lives of the people in this country remain unaffected by drought and floods. Every year lakhs of people are ruined due to devastating floods or serious drought and this calamities recur year after year. Time has come when a permanent solution to these problems has to be found. In my opinion, a national water grid should be formed and all the inter State rivers be declared as national rivers. Crores of trees should be planted in the hilly and other areas to check soil erosion.

If even a portion of the money spent on relief works every year is spent on finding a permanent solution to the problems of drought and floods, a major calamity can be averted. In this connection there is need to construct large number of small canals. Embankments should be constructed along the rivers to save Bihar and other States from silt. In this way their flow can be checked to a great extent.