

777 Matters Under Rule 377 PHALGUNA 4, 1914 (SAKA) Matters Under Rule 377 778
the same could not be passed. In 1988, the Government of Uttar Pradesh passed an order to give scholarships to the Bengali students.

Nothing has been done by the Government of India for the permanent rehabilitation of the displaced Bengalis during the period from 1946 to 1968.

Therefore, through you, I request the Central Government to provide certificate of Scheduled Caste and permanent rehabilitation to all displaced Bengalis, migrated from East Pakistan from 1941 to 1968.

- (ii) **Need to allocate adequate funds for early completion of Durgavati Reservoir Project in Rohtas district, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the foundation stone of Durgavati Reservoir Project in Rohtas district of Bihar was laid in 1976 and the construction work of which was to be completed by 1980. The Government has so far spent a sum of Rs. 68 crores on this project but till now the main portion of this project could not be constructed. The main canals of this project, which were dug earlier, have so far been filled with mud. The pace of the construction work had been very slow. The main portion of the said project is to be completed within the Eighth Plan but looking at the pace of the construction work it does not seem so. The delay in the completion of this project will result in cost escalation due to which the resentment among the people is increasing day by day.

Therefore, I request the central Government to separately allot an amount for the construction of the said project and entrust the construction work to a reputed

company, which may complete this project in a given period of time.

- (iii) **Need to set up 5 k electronic telephone Exchange at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI JITENDAR NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Jalpaiguri, a divisional town and the headquarters of the six districts of North Bengal is emerging as an industrial town. For its overall development, telecommunication facilities are essential. Presently, this town has a 2K Electronic Telephone Exchange, bearing a capacity of about 1600 units which has already been exhausted. More than 2000 people are eagerly waiting for telephone connection. Even the case recommended by Members of Parliament for telephone connections are remaining pending for a long period. Considering this acute problem, I urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps to install a 5 K Electronic Telephone Exchange at Jalpaiguri.

- (iv) **Need for electoral reforms in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise the following issue under Rule 377:-

"Secularism is uppermost in our constitution. The electoral system, made under the Democratic set up, has major lacunae. First Lok Sabha elections, held in 1952 were full of these lacunae. The political parties contested this election on the basis of religion and caste. The party which came into power, could form the Government on the basis of religion and caste. The religion and caste were mixed in the politics and the dependence on caste and religion became

[Translation]

so much that in order to separate these we had to bring a bill. But even after passing this bill we have not been able to separate them from our vested interests. If you wish to strengthen the very base of democracy, eliminate religion and communal elements from politics then take some concrete steps towards the electoral reforms with the consent of all the political parties so that we may be able to strengthen the Democracy and maintain the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation in the coming elections can remove the elements of religion, caste and criminalization in order to give the clean and neutral administration to the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we resume discussion on Price Rise under Rule 193?

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are going to discuss a new issue in the House but there is no quorum in the House. I request you to ensure the quorum in the House before the discussion starts.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung-

The bell has been rung. Since there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven, of the clock on Wednesday, February 24, 1993 /Phalgun 5, 1914 (Saka)