

13. 01 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

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

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Matters under rule 377. Shri Kashiran Rana.

- (I) **Need to allocate additional Commercial Industrial Piped Gas to meet the demands of Surat, Bharuch and Valla, Gujarat.**

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Surat is the second largest metropolitan city of Gujarat situated very near to the Urbarhat land-fall point. As against its gas requirement 1.0. MCMD, Government of India has already committed 0.3 MCMD. The Gujarat Gas Company Limited, in the associate sector, is fully equipped to undertake the entire city's distribution network to meet both the domestic and industrial/ Commercial requirements.

The above requirement could be met if the commitment for the additional quantity of 0.7 MCMD of gas is sanctioned by the Central Government. The total demand of 1.00 MCMD has already been included in the State Government Memorandum submitted to the Government of India.

Gujarat Gas Company Limited has started piped gas supply to Ankleshwar and

Bharuch townships. It is proposed to extend this scheme to cover 3000 households as well as industries in and around Valia area of Bharuch District. It will also be a unique concept covering 600 tribal families of centrally backward district of Bharuch under piped gas supply and would also contribute to conservation of forest resources by diverting tribes from using firewood for cooking. This extension project would require additional 1.5 lakh CMD of gas. The Gujarat Gas Company Limited would invest Rs. 4 crores to implement this project in the backward region, once a formal commitment of 1.5 lakh CMD of Gas is sanctioned by the Government of India.

I request the Government of India to allocate the additional Gas to meet the demand of Surat, Bharuch and Valia.

- (II) **Need to set up a sugar mill at Dhanha, Bihar**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHENDRA BAITHA (Bagaha): About 50 lakh quintals of sugarcane is produced per year in Dhanha Assembly segment of Bagaha constituency in Bihar but not even a single sugar mill is there. Earlier, the sugarcane produced in the area was purchased by Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mill but with effect from last year it has also stopped the purchase due to which the cultivators have to sell it to the mill owners at less than even half rate.

The Government of Bihar had submitted a proposal to set up a sugar mill in Dhanha to the Central Government quite long ago but they have not given approval to it so far. Due to this the condition of the farmers has been worsening. Therefore, the Government is urged upon to kindly direct the Government of the Uttar Pradesh to procure sugarcane from Dhanha this year as they used to do earlier. Besides, the Central

[Sh. Mahendra Baitha]

Government should set up a sugar mill at Dhanha at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to give Clearance to Second Phase of anti-sea erosion Project regarding Kerala coastline**

[English]

SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE (Alleppy): A proposal for Central assistance for the projection of the sea coast of Kerala has been sent to the Central Government. The coast line of the State which extends to 560 kilometres is highly vulnerable to sea erosion. This is a peculiar problem faced by the Kerala State on account of the geographical location of the State which is at the tip of the peninsula. The coastal area of the State has the highest density of population and homesteads are built up to the very limit of the coast line. Every year, hundreds of families are facing hardships due to the erosion during the monsoon. A project for the second phase of the anti-sea erosion work is pending before the Union Government. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to give clearance to the second phase of the anti-sea erosion project.

- (iv) **Need to fix a statutory minimum price of Rs. 120-150 per bag of Tapioca grown in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): In India only Tamil Nadu and Kerala are engaged in Tapioca cultivation and Tamil Nadu tops in its cultivation. It is grown in abundance in Dharmapuri and Salem districts. The acreage of cultivation in the State of Tamil Nadu as a whole is 25 lakh hectares. Tapioca tubers, though edible, are largely used for starch manufacturing. Starch pellets are exported and a sizeable amount of foreign exchange is thereby earned. But the Tapioca growers are not getting remunera-

tive prices. The growers are, however, forced to sell them at very low prices to intermediaries. Besides, the recent floods have also resulted in distress sale. I urge upon the Government to intervene and fix a statutory minimum price of Rs.120-150 per bag and save the growers of tapioca.

- (v) **Need to relax eligibility condition for retirement benefits in case of armed forces personnel disabled during service**

[Translation]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI (Garhwal): Armed forces personnel in thousands retire every year in the country due to disability or other reasons. These ex-servicemen are being deprived of pension, for not completing fifteen years of service. Many of them served for 10-14 years but had to retire without pension due to physical disability or an injury sustained during service. Thousands of applications of such retired army personnel are received by the Ministry of Defence but these applications are being turned down on the plea that the applicants did not complete 15 years in service.

I have also been receiving similar applications in thousands from my own constituency Garhwal. My submission to the Government is that the question of grant of pension to these retired ex-servicemen should be reviewed and an amendment should be made. After retirement, these ex-servicemen are not able even to join the civil service. Even Military Resettlement Centres fail to re-employ them.

Therefore, I would submit to the Government and the Defence Ministry to relax the length of service requirement for making them eligible for pension, or they should be given guarantee of re-employment in Government or other organisations after retire-