

12.24 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) NEED FOR PRESERVATION OF JAGANNATH TEMPLE OF PURI AND SUN TEMPLE OF KONARAK,

*SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi): Sir, the entire country is very proud of the world-famous Sri Jagannath temple of Puri which symbolises our great Indian culture. During Car festival, lakhs of people from different parts of the country avail of the opportunity and feel proud to have a glimpse of the Lord Jagannath and take part in the world-famous festival. The Sun Temple of Konarak, situated a few miles away from Puri near the seashore, is also famous for its fine arts depicted on the walls of the temple by the Oriya artists in the ancient days.

The tourists from abroad call this temple Black Pagoda and thousands of them visit this temple every day. Both the Government of Orissa and India earn foreign exchange worth lakhs of rupees every year from the tourists who visit Konarak and Sri Jagannath temple of Puri. But it is a matter of great concern that both these temples are on the verge of extinction due to lack of proper maintenance by the Archaeological Department. The more shocking is this that the stone slabs have been falling down from the domes of these temples. Efforts are made by the archaeologists three times to plaster the temples with a specially designed lime plaster. The idea of removing the old lime plaster from the temples of olden days and providing a new chemically treated lime plaster was opposed by the local people. But providing a chemically treated lime plaster is the only way to preserve these two temples. Steps should also be taken for clearing the water from the inner circle of Konarak temple which accumulates in huge quantity during rainy season in side the temple.

I, therefore, want to invite the attention of the Government of India towards the urgent need of preserving these two ancient temples as they are of national and historical importance. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to preserve these two temples lest they should get destroyed through the vagaries of nature.

- (ii) NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF GHAZIPUR DISTRICT OF U.P.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): Ghazipur is the most backward district of the backward region of Uttar Pradesh. 90 per cent of its population is living much below the poverty line. In 1962 a Study Group under the chairmanship of Mr. Patel, the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission was appointed to study the backwardness of this district and suggest measures for its development. The Patel Commission, as it is popularly known, has given its report in 1964 in which it has found Ghazipur as one of the most backward districts in the country. The Patel Commission's report was not implemented in the matter of industrial development, communications and job opportunities.

The Planning Commission have informed me that a Study Group is seized with this matter.

The Planning Commission's stand that it allocates funds to the State Government and it is for the State Government to take up the developmental work of the districts and regions, is not tenable. It is the duty of the Planning Commission to remove regional imbalances. The State Government of U.P. with its meagre resources is quite unable to take up the task of full development of any backward district. It is for the planning Commission to take this task to develop one of the most backward districts of backward region of eastern U.P. Patel Commission has recommended for heavy as well as small and cottage industries for the district. The small and cottage industries can be estab-

*The original speech was delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Zainul Basher]

lished with the raw materials locally available. I, therefore, request the Central Government to kindly take up the matter urgently and provide plan and funds for the development of that district. I also urge upon them to establish at least one heavy industry at Ghazipur which can generate employment for a large number of people of that District.

(iii) ALLEGED UNAUTHORISED RECRUITMENT OF TRIBALS OF ORISSA TO WORK IN OTHER STATES.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): I beg to make the following statement under the Rule 377 on a matter of urgent public importance.

About 50,000 tribals in Orissa are being recruited every year by unauthorised agents and sent away to distant places as casual labourers.

Reports received by the Government say that most of these tribals are made to work in conditions of slavery. According to the official report the agents often tell the tribals that they would be required to work in a neighbouring district, pay them advance and then send them away to projects at far off places like Nepal and Bhutan.

The recruitment is made in remote tribal districts or at weekly fairs which tribals frequent in search of work.

A large number of tribals who have returned from States like Jammu and Kashmir have been found to suffer from malnutrition.

A Labour Department spokesman of the State Government said, 'The way these people are treated is hard to believe. The food they are given is just enough to keep themselves alive and the pocket money they get will not buy them even a meal outside.'

These tribals are being huddled in small camps at work sites which lack even the elementary facilities.

Reports from a road construction project in Kashmir and a hydel project in Bhutan said the tribals were being made to work for more than 12 hours a day.

There have been numerous instances of tribals having been promised a monthly wage of Rs. 100 besides food, but paid only a pittance. At the end of their contract period, they were forced to sign a receipt for the wages they had been promised.

The plight of tribal women sent as casual labourers is even worse. Some of the girls sent to projects in Nepal and Bhutan have not returned to Orissa yet.

The State Government has been trying to trace the tribals recruited by unauthorised agents, but several States have failed to co-operate.

In this context I would request the Union Government to direct the concerned State Governments like Jammu and Kashmir, Nepal and Bhutan, etc., not to utilise these tribals of Orissa as slaves. The Union Labour Minister is requested to give a statement on this issue.

12.31 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE in the Chair].

(iv) SPECIAL INITIATIVES TO BOOST UP WORKING CONDITIONS OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman. Sir, 500 teachers of Central Universities sat on a daylong dharns on 27th February. They came from 7 universities, B.H.U., A.M.U., Delhi, J.N.U., Shillong, Hyderabad and Vishwa Bharati.

Teachers belonging to Central Universities are being compelled to take up the path of agitation, because continuous interference by the Government in the autonomy of the universities, arbitrary termination of services of teachers, etc., are causing a state of concern and tension.