

14.35 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (i) Need to ban plying of cycle rickshaws on New Delhi roads and to provide bank loans to the cycle rickshaw pullers to purchase auto rickshaw?

**SHRI BISHNU PRASAD (Kaliabor) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, unlike other metropolitan cities, New Delhi being the Capital of the largest democracy in the world, enjoys an enviable position.

New Delhi is sparsely populated covering vast expanse of land which could be traversed only by fast moving vehicles. This has resulted in manifold increase in the number of motor vehicles running in all directions on New Delhi roads. Under such a situation plying of cycle-rickshaw beyond the walled city of Delhi frequently poses traffic hazards, often resulting in traffic jams and fatal road accidents. It is, therefore, high time that plying of cycle-rickshaws on New Delhi roads should be totally banned.

Sir, a man pulling a cycle rickshaw, sweating profusely in rags under the scorching sun, presents a pitiable sight. Foreign tourists looking at the emaciated figure of a rickshaw puller from a poor image of our living standard. It is also a great health-hazard.

It is, therefore, high time that plying of cycle rickshaws on New Delhi roads is banned on humanitarian grounds. An important point worth taking note of is that the majority of rickshaw-puller are not the owners of the vehicles but they ply on hire basis. They, should, therefore, be provided with soft loans from the nationalised banks to purchase auto-rickshaws.

It would confer on them the ownership of the vehicles, and introduce fast traffic on New Delhi roads thereby minimising traffic jams. This measure would also increase their income and living standard, which would be a step towards economic uplift of weaker sections of our society, enumerated in the 20-point programme of our Prime Minister.

- (ii) Need to reject the proposal for shifting Regional Reference standard Laboratory from Khandagiri near Bhubaneswar to Gauhati.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Regional Reference

Standard Laboratory set up by the Union Food and Civil Supplies Ministry at Khandagiri near Bhubaneswar has been functioning for the last many years. The purpose of setting up this laboratory is to make adequate research on the food and agriculture development in this region. But it is regrettable that efforts are being initiated by a group of officials for the shifting of this regional laboratory to Gauhati. The news of shifting of this laboratory to Gauhati has created a great discontentment among the people of Orissa. Government of India has remarked a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs for the construction of a permanent building for the above regional reference standard laboratory at Khandagiri. A number of schemes have been formulated to undertake full-fledged research work through this laboratory. When the matter has advanced to such an extent the shifting of this laboratory to a far away place like Gauhati will not at all serve the purpose of the people of Orissa.

In view of the above circumstances, I would like to request the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to reject the proposal for the shifting of this laboratory to Gauhati in order to protect the interests of the agriculturists in Orissa.

- (iii) Need for directing the Bihar government to restore the earlier 'Old Age Pension Scheme in the State.

**SHRI R.P. YADAV (Madhepura) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Bihar keeping in view the object poverty of the people and also the rapid increase in the number of the citizens below the poverty line, embarked on an 'old-age pension scheme', in conformity with the Prime Minister's 20-point programme.

In the scheme, it was provided that the poverty-stricken people, who had already attained the age of 60 would be entitled to draw pension at Rs. 30/- per mensem.

Subsequently the 'scheme' was converted into 'social Security Pension scheme' which included within its purview the hapless widows and the indigent.

An order has been issued recently to the effect that the social security pension would not exceed 2% in any Block. This has created an ambiguous and an anomalous situation.

The average number of social security pensioners were 6 to 7 per cent of the population which the new dispensation has brought down to 2 per cent. The poor beneficiaries have agitated to secure the ends of justice. Their plight beggars description.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to intervene and prevail upon the Bihar Government to restore the earlier 'old age pension scheme'.

(iv) Need to extend retirement benefits to the casual labour working on Indian Railways.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government to a peculiar problem facing the casual labourers working in the Railways. As per the statement of the Minister during the presentation of the Railway Budget, there are about 2,50,000 casual Labour in the Indian Railways and only 25,000 casual labourers in all zones are being confirmed as per the existing rules. As per the present yardstick it will normally take more than a decade for a casual labourer to be confirmed as regular employee. Therefore, when a casual labourer dies in harness even after serving for more than a decade without being confirmed, he is deprived of retirement benefits like gratuity, pension, etc. His family only gets the P. F. contribution of the employee. On the other hand, a regular employee becomes eligible for retirement benefits if he completes a few years of service. This lacuna or injustice meted out to casual labourers can be removed if supernumerary posts are created so that these posts will lapse as and when these casual labourers vacate these posts. This will benefit a casual labourer to get retirement benefits. I urge upon the Government to consider this suggestion sympathetically and save many casual labourers working in the Railways from being deprived of their legitimate retirement benefits due to the lacuna in the rules.

(v) Need to provide alternative cattle feed because of rice bran and cotton seeds being used for extracting oil.

SHRI A. SENAPATHI GOUNDER (Palani) : The cattle wealth of our country is going on depleting year by year. We have been feeding cattle with rice bran and cotton seeds. But, now that we have started extracting oil from rice bran and cotton seeds, these two nutritious feed have become scarce for cattle. Also the stalks of high-breed

varieties of paddy being very short, the quantity of hay stalk available to cattle has also lessened. Thus, for the benefit of man, the cattle feed has been curtailed. Previously there was an Animal Welfare Board and even that has become defunct.

There were vast grazing grounds in dry areas and in every Village. After conversion of many dry areas into wet areas, the grazing grounds have become non-existent. Therefore, wherever dry lands are there, grazing field should be given exemption under the Land Ceiling Acts.

Production of green fodder just like N.B. 21 etc. should be increased and supplied at subsidised rates. The present rate of subsidy given is insufficient. Since we need to make oil from rice bran and cotton seeds, we have to find some alternatives as cattle feed.

I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take drastic steps for the care of the cattle which is very precious for our economy which is still predominantly agricultural.

(vi) Irregularities and inefficiency in the Handloom corporation and need for importing the lot of weavers.

श्री बी० डी० सिंह (फूलपुर) : सभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों में लगभग नब्बे प्रतिशत हेण्डलूम की इकाइयां हैं जो हेण्डलूम कारपोरेशन में व्याप्त अनियमितताओं तथा उसकी अक्षमता के कारण बन्द पड़ी हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त कारपोरेशन के अधिकारी पावरलूम की धोलियों को खरीद कर सस्ते कपड़े की दुकानों पर मेज देते हैं तथा होने वाले लाभ को स्वयं हथिया लेते हैं। परिणाम यह होता है कि हाथकरवा के बुने हुए माल का विक्रय नहीं हो पाता है और हाथकरवा इकाइयों को बाध्य हो कर बन्द करना पड़ता है। जिन गरीबों को हाथकरवा खरीदने के लिए ऋण दिया गया है, उन्हें भुगतान करने में असमर्थता हो रही है। हाथकरवा उद्योग में बिचौलियों का भी अकुश कठोर होता जा रहा है। वे बुनकरों के घरों में करवा लगवा कर उनसे कपड़ा बुनवाते हैं तथा उन्हें अपर्याप्त मजदूरी देकर स्वयं मालामाल हो रहे हैं लगभग 80 से 90 प्रतिशत तक हाथकरवा बिचौलियों