

Rule 377

अस्तु, मैं भारत सरकार के कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान इस अत्यन्त लोक महत्व के प्रश्न पर आकर्षित करने का आग्रह करते हुए आशा करता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय भूगर्भ जल परिषद का क्षेत्रीय सर्वांग-पूर्ण कार्यालय बिहार में अविलम्ब खोलने की व्यवस्था करायेंगे ।

(viii) NEED FOR OPENING PUBLIC CALL OFFICE ALL OVER THE SALEM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU.

*SHRI C. PALANIAPPAN (Salem): Under Rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance. At present there are three telephone Sub-Divisional Exchanges at Salem Telephone Division, namely Salem Telephone Exchange, Shevappettai Exchange and Meyyanur Exchange. In this Divisional Exchange, nearly 7000 telephone lines are working. For the last 4 or 5 years, there was no development in this Salem Telephone Divisional Exchange and they are giving only 200 new telephone connections per year. It seems that new telephone connections would be given only after the completion of the present expansion work. It may take minimum two years for the completion of the present expansion work.

In Salem (Tamil Nadu) several large-scale industries like Steel Plant are running for the past few years. Due to this ancillary small scale industries are also growing more in numbers. Due to lack of telephone facilities, these industries are facing problems and their further development is hampered.

Apart from this, in Salem, there is heavy increase in business activities on expansion in transportation. Till date 500 subscribers have deposited their caution amount at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per subscriber. The total amount works out to Rs. 8 lakhs. Due to the slow phase of giving new connections, we cannot expect more number of subscribers from the Salem district.

Near about hundred P.C.O.s have been disconnected in this district. The down-trodden and the poor section, sick people, passengers, lorry

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drivers who are not owning telephones are suffering. At Nethimedu (Salem), the P.C.O. has been disconnected and so also from the National Hotel, a starred one. The telephone department is discarding public utility and serving commercial interest. Even then a subscriber will have to pay an amount of Rs. 4000/- It is not possible by the poor sections of the society. Moreover this amounts that only wealthy people alone can afford for a telephone.

So I request the Hon. Minister for Communications to issue orders to open public call offices all over the Salem District and action may please be taken against officers who have disconnected the P.C.Os.

12.53 hrs.

REs MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before you go on to the next item, I want to rise on a point of order about the items under Rule 377. I wish to bring to your notice that on a number of occasions, on some burning problems we give notices and we find that some of the issues which are very embarrassing to the Government, for instance the Baghat incident, some women members of this House had visited the place, prepared a report and submitted it to the Speaker and to the Home Minister, but they were not allowed to make an mention. Again the Soviet troops have already occupied Afghanistan and they are making some permanent facilities there. It has been reported in the press. We have given notice about it under Rule 377, but that has not been allowed. Through you; Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to communicate to the Speaker my dissatisfaction at the manner in which matters under Rule 377 are being selected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This would be communicated to the

12.55 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1980-81—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up further discussion of the General Budget. Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH (Banka): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to support the Budget proposals presented by the Finance Minister.

It is heartening to find that the Budget proposals have been widely acclaimed by all sections of the people. It generally conforms to the basic requirements of the economic situation today. It has granted some relief to the consumers, particularly, the middle-class, and has not introduced a heavy dose of taxation which might have proved counter-productive, much to the disappointment of the members sitting opposite. It has also tried to reduce subsidies and cut down consumption expenditure so as to sustain the flow of plan expenditure.

The deficit which has been envisaged here has been accepted by all economists to be within the tolerable limits. Some members have expressed an apprehension that the deficit might prove to be an under-estimate as Chaudhuri Charan Singh's budget did last year. But we hope that with the efforts of the Government, with good monsoons, the production will pick up in the right direction both in the agricultural sector and in the industrial sector and the deficit estimated will be kept at that level.

In fact, this Budget stands out in striking contrast to the Budget presented last year by Chaudhuri Charan Singh which proved to be a major disaster for the nation. Last year's budget acted as a catalytic agent for high in-

flationary tendencies. I do not know whether Chaudhuri Charan Singh will be remembered by his countrymen more for his handling or mishandling of the Home Ministry's affairs or for his performance as the Finance Minister. I would put my bet on the latter because we have been able to reverse the political process but the effects of his Budget persist even today and adversely affect the common man.

Chaudhuri Charan Singh expressed great concern for the common man in his speech and expressed the view that this concern was utterly lacking in the Budget proposals. I need not guide him in his search for the common man in the Budget proposals. But I would like to point out that the various proposals like massive national rural employment programme will benefit the rural people who belong to the poorest section of society. The provision of Central assistance for the development of tribal people, the special provision made for the Scheduled Castes, the provision made for giving house sites to the landless and the weaker sections of society and even the step up in the rural development programme are all going to benefit the common man for whom great anxiety was expressed by Chaudhuri Sahib. I would like to assure him and the Members sitting opposite that so long as Congress(I) is in power and the leadership of this country is in the hands of Smt. Gandhi the common man shall never be forgotten. He shall figure prominently in all our policies and programme and we shall faithfully try to implement those programmes.

13 hrs.

I would like to offer a few comments by way of suggestions to which I hope the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister will give careful consideration. We have all come here on the promise of a faster rate of development but I am sorry to say that the Annual Plan expenditure does not fully testify to this end. The increase in Plan expenditure does not fully testify to this end. The increase in Plan expenditure in