

13.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up matters under rule 377. Mr. Harish Rawat is not here. Mr. V.S. Vijayaraghavan.

(I) Need to protect the interests of 'Janata Dhoti' weavers of Kerala.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat)* : The 20-Point Programme of our Prime Minister lays great emphasis on the development of the handloom sector. Accordingly, the Government has formulated a number of schemes to provide for their economic development. It was with this in view that the manufacture of Janata dhoti was entrusted to the handloom sector. There is a provision for the Central subsidy to the tune of Rs. 1.50 per square meter. However, the benefits of this scheme have not reached thousands of poor weavers working in the handloom sector in Kerala. As a matter of fact, 90% of the Janata dhoti in Kerala is produced in Palghat district. The primary cooperative societies are engaged in the manufacture and the Apex Society in marketing it. Unfortunately, the Apex Society is not giving any benefits to these primary societies. For instance inspite of the fact that the scheme provides for the supply of yarn at controlled rate, and advance payment of wages, the Apex Society has not given it during the last six years. What is more, it is learnt that this Society does not even pay for the goods received from the societies. Thus, these primary societies of poor weavers are growning under the burden of heavy debt. On the other hand, statistics show that the Apex Society has been earning a profit of 10% every year.

Therefore, I request the Government to look into this matter and take necessary steps to protect the interests of the poor weavers of Kerala.

(II) Declaring Trivandrum Airport as an International Airport.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Trivandrum airport is one of the important airports in the country. Besides a large number of domestic flights being operated daily from this airport, as many as 16 international flights are operated from here every week. As a matter of fact, the maximum traffic to and from the Gulf countries is from Kerala. However, the Trivandrum airport has not so far been declared as an international airport. The reason for not doing so is said to be that this airport cannot take bigger aircraft like B-747, DC-10 etc. But, the developmental works like extension of runway, installation of approach lights and telecommunication equipments for night landing facilities etc. are being carried out there. Thus, very soon, the Trivandrum airport will be in a position to take international aircraft of any type.

Besides, if the Trivandrum airport is declared as an international airport, the Malayalees working in Gulf countries will be able to use the direct flights to Trivandrum and thus escape the inconvenience at Bombay airport. There is great prospect of increase in the volume of traffic at this airport.

Therefore, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to declare the Trivandrum airport as an international airport.

(III) Demand for Selling up of a Ganga Board to Control Floods.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Unlike the past, the floods in river Ganga have become a regular feature. From 1978 to 1983, there were three devastating floods in river Ganga, of the same magnitude as was witnessed in 1916 and 1948. The floods rendered millions of people homeless and destroyed crops worth crores of rupees in U.P. and Bihar. The floods, along with the regular drought is the main factor contributing to the economic backwardness of U.P. and Bihar, particularly eastern U.P. and parts of Bihar. If the floods in Ganga are controlled and if huge water

*The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.

resources are developed for irrigation and power purposes, the States of U.P. and Bihar will also see economic prosperity.

No serious effort appears to have been made by the Central and the State Governments for flood control. In fact, the flood control measures would have cost less than what the flood relief measures have cost so far.

I urge upon the Government to set up Ganga Board on the lines of Brahmaputra Board which has been set up under an Act of Parliament for preparing a comprehensive master plan for the control of floods in Brahmaputra Valley and development of its water resources. River Ganga affects much larger number of persons than the river Brahmaputra. By setting up such Boards, millions of people in U.P. and Bihar will cross over the poverty line, and the region will become economically prosperous.

(iv) Demand to refix the eligibility age at 28 years for U.P.S.C. Examinations.

श्री बी० डी० सिंह (फूलपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की जनसंख्या का लगभग 75 प्रतिशत भाग गांवों में रहता है। देश के प्रशासन में गांवों की भी भागीदारी रहे, गांव के नवयुवकों को भी प्रशासनिक सेवाओं में पहुंचने का अवसर मिले, इन उद्देश्यों को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए 1978 में जनता सरकार ने संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा आयोजित प्रशासनिक सेवाओं की परीक्षाओं में सम्मिलित होने के लिए अधिकतम आयु सीमा 26 से बढ़ाकर 28 वर्ष कर दी थी। इससे विशेषकर ग्रामीण आंचल के नवयुवकों को परीक्षाओं में सम्मिलित होने के अधिक अवसर मिल जाते थे। आर्थिक कठिनाइयों के कारण ग्रामीण नवयुवक शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में अत्यधिक पिछड़े हुए हैं। गांवों में बालक अपेक्षाकृत अधिक आयु हो जाने पर शिक्षार्जन प्रारम्भ करते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त आजकल

विश्वविद्यालयों के सत्र भी बहुत ही अनियमित चल रहे हैं। परिणामस्वरूप स्नातक स्नातकोत्तर आदि परीक्षाओं को उत्ताप करने तक विशेषकर ग्रामीण नवयुवकों की आयु काफी अधिक हो जाती है। इन्हीं सब बातों को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए संघ लोक सेवा आयोग की परीक्षाओं में सम्मिलित होने के लिये अधिकतम आयु सीमा 26 वर्ष से बढ़ाकर 28 वर्ष की गयी थी। परन्तु वर्तमान सरकार ने गत 22 अक्टूबर को एक आदेश प्रचारित करके युवा अधिकतम आयु सीमा 28 वर्ष से घटाकर 26 वर्ष कर दी जो 1985 से तथा उपरान्त होने वाली परीक्षाओं में प्रभावी होगी। इससे विशेषकर ग्रामीण आंचल के नवयुवकों में बड़ी निराशा हुई है।

अतएव मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री से निवेदन करूंगा कि संघ लोक सेवा आयोग की समस्त परीक्षाओं के लिये अधिकतम आयु सीमा पुनः बढ़ाकर 26 वर्ष से 28 वर्ष की जाए।

(v) Financial Assistance to hailstorm suffers of Meghalaya.

SHRI BAJUBON R. KHARLUKHI (Meghalaya) : In the month of May this year, a very severe hailstorm hit the border areas of the Khasi Hills in Meghalaya causing unprecedented damage to potatoes, oranges, betelnuts and other standing crops. The extent of damage was such that the people were forced to take to other menial jobs with very uncertain income causing thereby great economic hardships to them. Some of them had even shifted temporarily Shillong and other urban areas in search of whichever works are available pending the arrival of another farming season in 1984. The damage was estimated at several lakhs of rupees.

The border people of Meghalaya have been economically hardpressed since the partition of India and the State of Poverty is practically beyond the reach of our imagination.