

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, matters under rule 377. Shri Rasa Behari Behera.

(i) SCARCITY OF CEMENT IN ORISSA

*SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377. The construction work of a number of projects of Orissa have come to a standstill due to the severe scarcity of cement and they are not going to be completed by the end of March, 1982, i.e., their target dates of completion. The Government of India has allocated 12 lakh metric tonnes of cement for the State of Orissa annually. Accordingly, the Central Cement Control Board, New Delhi, should supply 3 lakh metric tonnes of cement to Orissa in every quarter whereas 81,000 metric tonnes have been supplied to that State so far. This is really very inadequate to meet the demand of the State for the construction of various on-going projects.

Bali Mela, Indravati and Bengali multi-purpose projects are under construction in Orissa at present. A number of Centrally sponsored industries and housing schemes are at the various stages of construction in that State. Apart from this, houses are going to be built in the flood affected areas and bridges are under construction on various national highways that pass through Orissa.

Therefore, it is desirable that Orissa should get its full share of cement as per the allotment made by the Centre. Unless cement is supplied as

per the requirement of the State, all the developmental programmes under implementation in Orissa will be retarded. This issue concerns the interest of the entire State.

In view of this, I demand that cement should be supplied to State of Orissa as per the Central allocation without any further delay.

(ii) LACK OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR PILGRIMS TO VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

SHRI BHEEKHABHAI (Banswara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377.

Mata Vaishno Deviji's pilgrimage has assumed a countrywide importance. Foreigners also visit these shrines to offer their prayers to this goddess. Almost every year lakhs of people visit this shrine located in the State of J & K.

The devotees have to go all the way to the temple through a long foot journey on the mountain. It may be noted that the Government virtually do not provide any facility for these devotees.

While performing their foot journey, even the basic amenities like drinking water is not provided to the devotees. So much so that persons reaching the shrines have hardly any better place for their night halt which is essential in view of the long foot journey involved to reach the temple.

I shall, therefore, request the Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation as well as the Department of Culture to look into the matter and arrange immediately the following basic amenities to lakhs of devotees who go to the shrine to offer their prayers.