

[Shri Nihar Ranjan Laskar]

ing to guidelines given by the Central Government. So, Sir, we are fully aware of those problems. We are taking all precautions to see that these prisoners' number comes down.

13.19 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General.) Shri Mukherjee.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): With your permission, Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1982-83.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 14-20 hrs.

1320 hrs.

(The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Twenty Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock)

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at twenty five minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) PRACTICE OF LENDING MONEY BY ORNAMENTS.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): I wish to make the following statement under Rule 377:—

The discontinuance of the practice of landing money on security of jewellery and gold ornaments by the nationalised

banks and other financial institutions has adversely affected multifarious economic and social activities of the poor sections of the people. People who engage themselves in small trade and business to earn their daily bread are severely affected and put to lot of difficulties in carrying on their day-to-day small business. So is the case with agriculturists and other poorer sections of the society. Now they find no alternative than to fall into the prey of usurious private money-lenders who impose exorbitantly high rate of interest. The denial of this opportunity has aggravated and added their financial miseries and agonies. In times of emergent and pressing financial necessities, hitherto, the weaker sections have found this arrangement as a convenient source of protection and relief in the solution of their financial problems. Now they are greatly aggrieved and frustrated. So, the Government may be pleased to take serious consideration of the difficulties faced by the common people and pass early appropriate orders for the resumption of the practice of lending money for jewellery and gold ornaments.

(II) NEED TO ACCEPT DEMANDS OF PEOPLE OF LADAKH.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Under Rule 377, I wish to make the following statement on the situation in Ladakh:—

It is for over six months now that the people of Ladakh consisting of men, women and youngmen are sitting on 48 hours elay dharna to press their legitimate demands. Their demands include declaration of the residents of Ladakh as Scheduled Tribe, grant of regional autonomy in respect of financial matters with the framework of Jammu and Kashmir State State Constitution, Delimitation of the present two Assembly constituencies into seven Assembly Constituencies in view of the vastness of the area, and conducting judicial inquiry into the wanton police excesses and killings of the innocent Ladakhies on 24th of January, 1982.

In the recent past, the simple peace-loving and self-respected people of Ladakh were driven to a point of desperation by not