

[Shri Purnanarayan Sinha].

passengers who demand accommodation for air travel at the present time. The landing area of the Gauhati airport has not been enlarged even for the smaller aircraft that are being used for several flights between Calcutta and other stations in the North East. As an example, it may be cited that on the 8th April 1979, when the Prime Minister's Aircraft was kept at the bordering area at Gauhati airport, the flights due to take off from Calcutta before 0900 hours were all delayed, as Gauhati airport notified that the landing area was being occupied by the Prime Minister's aircraft. The weather at Calcutta and Gauhati was clear and ideal for taking off and landing of aircraft. Because of the delay in taking off at the starting point, the passengers are made to suffer terrible loss in the business, social or political mission on which the people travel by air at such high cost. And when there are lack of facilities at the landing area at the airport, it becomes all the more objectionable. These difficulties to the travelling public are being additionally created by the possession of the airfields in the north-east by the Indian Air force. Tezpur, Jorhat, Chabua (Dibrugarh) etc. are controlled by the Air Force, causing considerable inconvenience to civilian travellers. For the sake of the public, firstly the landing area of Gauhati and other air stations should be enlarged and air force control restricting the entry etc. to the airfield areas of *bona fide* passengers should be removed and proper lounges etc. should be opened where necessary.

(ii) NEED FOR CONVERSION OF HYDERABAD AIRPORT INTO AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SRI P. RAJAGOPALA NAIDU (Chittoor): Madam Chairman, with your permission, I raise the follow-

ing matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:

Many people are going every day from Andhra Pradesh to Middle East and other countries through Hyderabad Airport. We can roughly estimate them to be at least 30 persons per day.

Although Hyderabad Airport has been declared as customs clearance Airport, the import requirements of Andhra Pradesh manufacturers have still to be made through the Madras and Bombay Ports causing them much inconvenience. Even the exports of the twelve groups of commodities by air from Hyderabad Airport are transhipped either at the Bombay Airport of Madras Airport into international flights entailing delay till space in international flights is available.

If Hyderabad Airport is upgraded as an international Airport it may not only remove the traffic congestion at the existing International Airports, but also help increase the tourist traffic as Andhra Pradesh is having many places of historical interest and also equipped with star hotels for attracting the tourists in a big way. It will help promote the A.P. exports and imports. Hence the State Government in industries and Commerce Department, Andhra Pradesh, have requested the Commerce Ministry, Government of India, for upgarding Hyderabad Airport as an international airport.

I therefore request the Government to convert Hyderabad Airport as an International Airport.

(iii) REPORTED HUNGER STRIKE BY PHOTOGRAPHERS AND DEALERS IN PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL IN DELHI DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FILM ROLLS

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Madam, with your permission I raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:

Photographers and dealers in photographic material have gone on an indefinite hunger-strike in Delhi. This is to focus the attention of the Government to the acute shortage of black and white still photographic roll films. The President of the All India Federation of Photographic Trades Association has brought to the notice of the Government the acute shortage of films and the rampant blackmarketing of the material. Professional photographers are facing great hardships while the amateurs are virtually starving.

The shortage of black and white roll films is the direct result of the gross mismanagement and inability of Hindustan Photo Films. They have not been able to meet their production target. A survey conducted by Hindustan Photo Films in 1975 was wrong and grossly underestimated the actual demand of film rolls. The situation has further worsened due to the ban on the import of film rolls. There is a demand from photographers to set up another manufacturing unit for production of photographic material. The professionals need about 100 roll films per month while the Hindustan Photo Films is hardly giving them 25 per month. Even this quota is not now being fulfilled. I call upon the Government to urgently solve this problem by reorganising the Hindustan Photo Films and as a temporary measure by importing film rolls to end this acute shortage.

(iv) REPORTED REFUSAL BY BANKS TO ACCEPT LOW DENOMINATION CURRENCY NOTES IN AGRA

**SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI (Agra):** Madam, with your permission I rise to mention the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377:

A serious situation has arisen in Agra which threatens to bring trade and industry to a stand-still because

of the persistent refusal by banks, both nationalised and non-nationalised, to accept low denomination notes below Rs. 50 in the day-to-day business transactions, viz. payment of bills, issue of drafts and deposits.

The trouble has arisen from the refusal of the State Bank to accept notes of denomination below Rs. 50 because of the lack of space in their currency chest.

The matter has been brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank, the Finance Ministry and other concerned authorities, but so far no relief has been forthcoming. I would, therefore, request the Government immediately to intervene and remedy the present situation so that smooth functioning of trade and industry is not hampered.

(v) REPORTED PLAN TO DEMOLISH THE WESTERN COURT HOSTEL FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad):** By your leave, I proceed under rule 377 to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance:

14 hrs.

Reports appearing in a section of the Press tend to suggest that the Western Court Hostel for M. Ps. is likely to be demolished in the near future. It would not be out of place or inappropriate to recall, in this context, a similar proposal mooted in 1964 by the then Minister of Works and Housing, the late Shri Mehr Chand Khanna, which was strongly and successfully resisted by M.Ps. then residing in Western Court including Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Homi Daji and myself. I may reiterate here what I then said in the Lok Sabha, that my colleagues and I would have to be physically removed from the Hostel, and further that if the demolition scheme was implemented, the Minister would find a place among the worst vandals in