

(ब) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

**New Division at Erode**

1883. SHRI THAZHAI M. KARUNANTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven members of Parliament belonging to Tamil Nadu have presented a letter to the Railway Minister on 22-8-1979, for the Restoration of Podanur Division, or formation of a new Division either at Erode or at Salem in Southern Railway;

(b) if so, what action has been taken and the details thereof;

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons for the same; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for implementing the above Scheme in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) The contents of the letter were examined in depth and a detailed reply was sent. On the basis of operational and administrative considerations, it has not been feasible to create a new division at Erode or Salem. The requirements of rail-users in the area are being adequately catered to with the existing set-up administering rail net-work in the area.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Strike by the Employees of Willingdon Hospital**

1884 SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Willingdon Hospital workers called off their strike on 24th November, 1979 on the assurance of the former Health Minister that the demands will be implemented;

(b) whether it is also a fact that written agreement was signed between the Joint Secretary (Health) and the Union regarding settlement of demands;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said agreement was violated by the Hospital authorities that led to strike by employees from 5th December, 1979;

(d) whether Government are aware that the strike was called off on 23rd December, 1979 on the assurance of the D.G.H.S. that the demands which require financial commitments would be fulfilled immediately after the elections and that all other demands would be settled by 31st December, 1979; and

(e) if so, the reasons for non-settlement of demands till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No.

(b) During the progress of negotiations between the Union and the hospital authorities, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare gave an undertaking to the employees providing "that many of these (their) problems could be settled by quick and individual attention to each of them". It has also agreed that the Government "will try to fulfil as many of the requirements, to the extent possible".

(c) The Hospital authorities settled as many of the requirements as could be settled such as—grant of selection grades, allotment of a few additional staff quarters, confirmation of employees, in service training for employees. As such, the question of violation of the agreement does not arise.

(d) and (e). The strike was called off on 22nd December, 1979. Some of the demands not involving financial commitments have been fulfilled. The demands involving financial implications are getting due attention.