

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is indeed a serious matter and the Prime Minister has already given reply to it. I admit that it is indeed a serious matter.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAWNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: The foreigners have also played a role in this regard. The tragedy happened in Gujarat has been unfortunate. The State Government has killed the innocent people by supporting them.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

14.55 hrs.

- (i) **Need to retain 'rake point' facility at Ratlam Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh has special importance from the commercial point of view. It is a commercial centre as it is an important station of Western Railways and is situated between Mumbai and Delhi. Therefore, it has its own importance from the point of view of railways also.

I have come to know that Railway Administration has withdrawn the 'Rake Point' facility at Ratlam Railway Station, though a declaration may not have been made or an advertisement may not have been published, and as a result thereof, lot of inconvenience has been caused not only to the traders but also to the farmers because fertilizers used to be distributed by co-operative department and farmers were getting fertilizers from time to time through it. It would result in heavy loss to farmers as there would be delay in getting fertilizers. Along with the loss of revenue to Railways, it would also adversely affect the agricultural production.

The sugar mills of this district also avail the rake loading facility and Soya industry also did not face difficulty in sending D.O.C. Wheat, Gram, Black gram, (Urad) etc. alongwith fertilizers, one such items, the rake-load of the half rake load of which have been used by Food Corporation of India, Supply Corporation and the co-operative department fully. People have sufficient facilities inspite of the lack of arrangement for crane siding at Ratlam.

Ratlam is a station which has adequate rake capacity and there has not been unnecessary delay in unloading the rakes. Many cement factories in Mandsoor near Ratlam also make use of this facility from time to time. Due to withdrawal of the aforesaid facility, inconvenience will be caused to thousands of people on the one hand and it may also render the labourers jobless on the other hand leading to resentment.

Therefore, the Minister of Railways is requested to retain the 'rake point' facility at Ratlam.

- (ii) **Need to look into irregularities in Telecommunication Department in Agra and adjoining districts in Uttar Pradesh.**

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (JALESAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir telecommunication services, especially in Agra, Mathura, Ferozabad, Etah, Mahamayanagar and Farukhabad districts are in a mess, Telephones remain out of order for months together. Nobody turns up for putting the telephone in order after making repeated complaints. No rules are followed in releasing telephone connections. The situation in rural areas is even worse. Poor farmers are being openly exploited. Non-functioning of telephone exchanges has become a common feature.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to bring about improvement in the functioning of telecommunication services and punish the guilty officials after getting an enquiry conducted by a Committee of Members of Parliament in the said districts.

- (iii) **Need for early start of work on Navinagar Power Project in Bihar during current financial year**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, global tenders were invited by the Power Grid Corporation of India on 30.8.96 for the 2000 MW Navinagar coal based thermal power project being executed with the assistance from the Ministry of Power. In response to the global tenders invitation eight parties sent documents regarding competitive bids. Tenders of the developers regarding prequalifications were to be opened on 28th November, 1996, but due to non-compliance on the part of the department to furnish clarifications sought by the developers regarding practicability of the concerned coal mines, no bid was given.

It seems to me that unnecessary delay is being caused to execute this project which may help in overcoming the power crisis in Bihar. Coal mines are available in Bihar, and inspite of it, unnecessary delay is being caused in engaging a good colliery for Navinagar thermal power project.

Therefore, I humbly request the Union Government that the work on Navinagar thermal power project should be started early and the implementation of the project should commence during the current financial year in order to solve the serious power crisis in Bihar.

*[English]*

- (iv) **Need to create a New West Coast Railway Zone in Kerala**

SHRI A. SAMPATH (CHIRAYINKIL): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been a long pressing demand for the creation of a new West Coast Railway Zone with its headquarters either at Kozhikkode or at Cochin. Even though the revenue received from passenger traffic as well as goods traffic in Kerala show an impressive upward trend, the facilities for the passengers are poor. The number of trains and bogies provided thereby are insufficient. The

demand for new long distance trains like Trivandrum-Calcutta remains unattended and not yet approved. The only solution for solving the developmental problems of Railways in Kerala is the creation of new Zone. The Government of Kerala has also urged for creation of such a Zone.

I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps for the creation of a West Cost Railway Zone in Kerala.

**(v) Need for Construction of a Link Road at Village Edapady in Salem District of Tamil Nadu under Integrated Tribal Development Programme**

SHRI K. KANDASAMY (RASIPURAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at present there is no proper road facility or pathway available at Edapady village which is attached with Pachamalai village coming under Kangavalli Panchayat Union of Salem District of Tamil Nadu State. The tribals, who are the majority of the inhabitants, primary school teachers, noon-meal organisers and fair price shopkeepers are facing a lot of difficulties for want of such pathway/road facility for their day-to-day basic needs to carry things from nearby areas. Even though the Integrated Tribal Development Programme is in existence, it is not being properly implemented. Now, articles and luggage/baggages are being carried by donkeys and by headloads causing a lot of inconvenience. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to take immediate steps to provide road facility in that area, Edapady village, under Integrated Tribal Development Programme to enable the inhabitants to live there peacefully.

**(vi) Need to introduce Shatabdi Express Train between Delhi-Bareilly-Lucknow.**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Bareilly is a major industrial city in Uttar Pradesh. There are many big industries here including four sugar mills, Aonla fertilizer unit of IFFCO and Synthetic and Chemical Industries. Keeping in view the importance of this city, it has been decided by the centre to develop it as a counter-magnet city under the National Capital Region. Work has been started under it but till today, there is no satisfactory train service from Delhi to Bareilly. As a result, a lot of inconvenience is caused to the passengers. The local public representatives and other people have been demanding for introduction of a Shatabdi Express between Delhi-Bareilly-Lucknow or Delhi-Bareilly-Nainital (Kathgodam) for a long time and the then Minister of Railways accepted the said demand when he had come to Bareilly, but a proper decision has not been taken in this regard.

Therefore, the Minister of Railways is requested to make announcement regarding the introduction of a new Shatabdi Express between Delhi-Bareilly-Lucknow.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Sir,

today, from various textile mills all over the country, trade unions belonging to all parties—the Congress, the BJP, the CPI, the CPI (M), Forward Block, Janata Dal, etc.—have come here. The textile mills being closed in West Bengal, in Gujarat, in Maharashtra, in Rajasthan, in Kanpur and in all other States has created a very serious situation.

15.00 hrs.

Workers of several mills like NTC and BAC from all over India are demonstrating and are asking the help of the Parliamentarians to see to it that those mills are reopened and they get back their jobs.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of youth have come here from Uttar Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not zero hour.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: It is very important subject. You have allowed everybody.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not allowed.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Maharaja Saheb is very much annoyed. Please give him an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (TEHRI-GARHWAL): I would like to draw your attention to the fact that three Resolutions have come from Lucknow for the creation of Uttarakhand. The previous Prime Minister had declared from the Red Fort that this demand would be fulfilled. But, now the Home Minister says that he is considering a Bill and it would be sent to Lucknow for approval. I wish the Speaker was sitting in the Chair because he knows very well that when Assam was bifurcated, though the then State Government opposed it, the Central Government refused to accept the State Government's opposition and created a separate State. Now, the Home Minister says, 'We will send it to U.P.' Why is it so? The State Government has already given a blank cheque to the Central Government to create Uttarakhand. Now an excuse is being given that it would be sent to Lucknow. I would request the hon. Speaker through you to direct the Government of India to draft the Bill and submit it to the House in this very Session so that it can be passed and Uttarakhand could be created. It is not necessary to send it to Lucknow. Please direct the Government to take necessary action.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): We would apprise the Government of the feelings of the House.