

(viii) **Need for setting up of a VHF LPT at Kottarakkara in Kollam district of Kerala.**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor)** : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Kottarakkara, in Kerala is one of the important taluk headquarters in Kollam district which falls in Adoor parliamentary constituency.

Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra is covering the area of Adoor parliamentary constituency which is within the radius of 100 kms. This is a hilly area and backward. The visibility of the Doordarshan Kendra Programmes in this taluk is very poor. As such, the viewers are not getting any of the programmes of Doordarshan clearly. The people are demanding for setting up a VHF LPT at Kottarakkara for redressing their grievances. It is a long standing demand.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to consider and sanction a VHF LPT at Kottarakkara during this financial year.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Now the House will take up the next item...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur)** : Sir, as per the Bulletin, Railway Budget would be discussed on the 23rd, 24th and 25th. Today being 23rd, I want to know whether the train will run today? We would like to know the position for our information whether the Railway Budget would be discussed Today.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : As per the list of Business. This is the item before me.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA** : But in the Bulletin it is mentioned that the Railway Budget would be discussed on 23, 24 and 25th...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : At present I would like to stick to the Agenda. We will consider your plea later on...

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA** : Sir, we would just like to know where it will be taken up, say after 6 or 7 or it will not be taken up at all...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : I will find out the position and apprise you accordingly.

14.20 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

##### **Calling off of the Strike in All India Institute of Medical Sciences.**

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI)** : Sir, in the last few days a lot of hon.

Members have shown their anxiety about the happenings at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. I would like to inform the hon. Members, through you, that the strike has been called off.

A very unfortunate incident took place on the 17th when some Resident Doctors were assaulted. We had an inquiry conducted into the matter. We have very strongly condemned the incident. I am taking up the matter with the hon. Home Minister as well as the Lt. Governor of Delhi so that such incidents are not repeated in the future. But I would just like to inform every hon. Member who showed his or her anxiety that the strike has been called off as of this morning...*(Interruptions)*

**AN HON'BLE MEMBER** : Was any one arrested? ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI** : Yes, two of them have been arrested...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk - Delhi)** : What action is proposed to be taken against the persons whose alleged misbehaviour led to the strike. There were some political leaders also...*(Interruptions)* who abused and threat the doctors and they were armed in spite of their assertion to the country. I want to know the action proposed to be taken against such persons how soever they may be even the Chief Minister of Delhi. Had some common man done it, would you have let him off...*(Interruptions)* Who is responsible for this...*(Interruptions)* My submission is that action should be taken against such people who all instigating others...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI** : We strongly condemn the inaduct and strict action would be taken against the persons involved in the incident. I can only request the police to take action because I am not empowered to take any direct action. I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Delhi...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki)** : That is what we said. Action has to be taken against the Chief Minister; action has to be taken against the State Government. The Chief Minister's name is also involved in the incident. It is in the newspaper.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI** : I was saying that I have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Delhi in which he has claimed that his home has been wrongly dragged in the incident and that should be inquired into. We have ordered an inquiry to find out the factual portion and stringent action would be taken against the persons involved in the incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That matter has ended now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir... (Interruptions) My query has not been answered and if it is not possible I would like to go home.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will find out and inform you in a shortwhile.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Please find Out.

14.25 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF  
THE BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996**

**BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS BILL**

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: BUILDING AND  
OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE  
CESS THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996**

AND

**BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS' WELFARE CESS BILL — Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Palanimanickam please.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) :

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir.

I welcome the Bill that has been introduced in this House to give protection through legislation to the construction workers in the unorganised sector. This is intended to guarantee some protection in their service conditions through certain provisions of the Act we seek to enact now. I wholeheartedly support this Bill. I am happy to see the introduction of "The building and other construction workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Bill 1996" Clubbed with another Bill "The Building and other construction workers welfare cess Bill 1996". Though they may get help through certain provisions in the already existing centrally legislated Laws, it has been thought fit to go in for an exclusive legislation. I congratulate the Government on this count. The need to enact an exclusive Act to benefit

\* Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the construction workers has been understood at last. The Government that seeks to enact a law for this purpose is expected to know all the problem such of those workers face. The construction workers form the second largest group among the workers found in the unorganised sector. I think the Government has fully understood their plight, that is why the Bill is in the process of being passed now after it has come in to vogue through three consecutive ordinances. Hence I appreciate the Government and welcome again the introduction of this Bill now.

United Front Government that has been formed by the coming together of thirteen parties has given to itself a common minimum programme as its guiding policy through its steering committee. What has that programme got to say about the workers in the unorganised sector. It promises to give them a better deal. It says that "some laws have been made in respect of labour in the unorganised sector. These laws will be strengthened and where necessary, new law will be made to protect the interest for such labour, particularly in the construction industry". With that spirit of comradeship and responsibility, I would like to raise certain questions. We are enacting this law after 50 years of independence as a comprehensive Act. Some seven years back the same Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha. But it was withdrawn later as per the recommendations of the Petitions Committee of Lok Sabha. The Committee recommended that a fresh Bill be introduced so as to cater to long felt demands of hitherto neglected segment of the working class i.e. the construction workers. Now it is necessary to go into the question whether the recommendations of a Committee of this House have been heeded or not. While introducing this Bill, Hon'ble Labour Minister has stated in his statement laid on the table of this House that the Bill was withdrawn in 1989 to bring-forth a fresh legislation incorporating the suggestions and the scheme contained in the Bill proposed by the National Campaign Committee. He had pointed out the role played by the National Campaign Committee which had interacted with the representatives of both the construction workers and the Government. The National Campaign Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Mr. V.R. Krishna Iyer strived to bring to light the problems faced by about 85 lacs of construction workers throughout the country. Now we must ask ourselves whether that committee is really happy with the form of the Bill that has been introduced now. Are they really satisfied with the proposed legislation? What was the recommendation made by the Petitions Committee of this House? Is it not that the committee reiterated that "it is for the Government to ensure that the legislation which is finally created encompasses all the features to extend practicable". I would like to know whether this Government has accepted that recommendations. If not, the Government should explain why it could not include all the features