

[Sh. Anil Shastri]

free to say whatever he likes. He can give any suggestion he likes otherwise the same member will complain that the Deputy Finance Minister was trying to censor the open house.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): The remark was made by one of the participants and the Minister was present there. He should have reacted to it stating the Government of India's point of view in that regard. On the other hand he has said that this is a suggestion and there should be a national dialogue on it. Therefore, this means that the Government is also of the view that this kind of discussion should be taken up by the people as a whole. That gives a wrong signal, I must say that.

14.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to introduce EMU train service between Arakkonam and Madras** (402 377)

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Sir, at present, there is an EMU train service starting from Arakkonam at 8.30 AM and reaching Madras Central at about 10.00 AM. There is also an express train starting from Jolarpet at about 7.15 AM touching Arakkonam and reaching Madras Central at about 9.00 AM. But this train is already full before it touches Arakkonam railway station.

Sir, there are more than 20,000 people belonging to different walks of life who are residing in Arakkonam and in the neighbouring areas who are finding it extremely difficult to reach Madras Central daily. The above-mentioned trains are already running to full

capacity as they cater to various segments of commuters.

It is, therefore, requested that the Railway Ministry should take immediate steps to introduce an EMU service starting from Arakkonam at about 7.45 or 8.00 AM reaching Madras Central at about 9.15 AM and in the evening the same service should be introduced starting from Madras Central at about 6.30 PM reaching Arakkonam at about 7.45 PM so that the plight of the commuters is mitigated to a great extent.

- (ii) **Need for expeditious completion of upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka** (402 377)

[English]

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga): The long pending Upper Bhadra Project is considered as panacea to the drought hit Chitradurga district. The project if implemented would be a boon to many taluks in Tumkur and Kolar districts also. The people of Karnataka especially from the drought hit Chitradurga, Kolar and Tumkur are urging for the immediate implementation of this vital project on priority basis.

The Planning Commission would be providing only 30 crores of rupees for the irrigation projects in Karnataka during the current year and it is apprehended that this important project may not be implemented in the near future. It is very essential to take up this project immediately to save the poor farmers. The percentages of irrigated land in Karnataka is the lowest when compared to the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to expedite the sanction of this key irrigational project and allocate at least 150 crores of rupees during the current financial year to complete it.

*Translation of the speech originally raised in Tamil.