

[Mr. Speaker]

what you will be contributing to the House.

With that hope and good wishes, I welcome you to the Deputy Speaker's Chair.

**SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI** (Dharmapuri): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I express my deep sense of gratitude to you and to the members of this august House in electing me unanimously to the high office of the Deputy-Speaker of Lok Sabha.

At the outset, I take this opportunity of thanking our young and dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who has reposed confidence in me and in the All India Anna D.M.K. Party by sponsoring me for this high office.

I am very certain that our country, under the able leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi will march from strength to strength.

I wish to express my respects to our hon M.G. Ramachandra, Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, for nominating me to this high office. I am sure I will prove worthy of his choice.

Our great leader, late lamented Perarigner Anna outlined duty, dignity and discipline as prerequisites for success in any field. It will be my endeavour to always follow these good principles while discharging my duties as Deputy Speaker of this honourable House.

One can never fail to pay homage to our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the illustrious daughter of Mother India, Destiny snatched her from amongst us. I am sure we will continue to march ahead keeping her life, actions and words as the guiding principles.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am conscious that the office of Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, has all along been occupied

by eminent persons who distinguished themselves in the discharges of their duties. I will follow in their footsteps.

They will ever remain in my thoughts while I sit in the House and it will be my endeavour to discharge my functions in an impartial manner as is expected of me.

At the same time, I will seek the cooperation from all sections of this House. I am sure this will be forthcoming in abundant measure. I will keep the interest of all parties, groups and individual Members in my mind while discharging my duties.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I will receive your guidance and cooperation in ample measure during my tenure.

I once again thank you and Members of this House. on behalf of our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaiver MGR and all India Anna DMK and myself for electing me to this high Office.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before I invite you to the Chair, I would like to inform the House that we shall have Calling Attention Motion tabled today at 4.00 P.M. At 6 PM. the Prime Minister will reply to the debate.

Now I will invite you to this Chair. Welcome,

12.28 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** *Statements under Rule 377. Shri Chintamani Jena.*

12.29 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Need to Convert the Rupsa-Bangliriposi Narrow Gauge Railway Line into Broad Gauge

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA** (Balasore): Sir, Rupsa-Bangliriposi

Narrow Gauge railway line under Kharagpur division of S.E Railway was constructed about a century back and has been functioning without any improvements in it, even though this area has been developed after establishment of many industries and discovery of mineral products as well as tremendous increase of population. After several demands from various corners, the S.E Railway authorities have conducted a survey of its conversion into Broad Gauge railway line and declared it non remunerative which has disappointed the users. It is learnt from some reliable sources that the, experts while conducting the survey did not take note of the newly established industries and some such industries which are under construction as well as the mineral products and forest of this area. Had these been taken into consideration the project would have been very remunerative especially when the latest proposal was to connect it with the broad gauge railway line near Gorumahisani, which is connecting Howrah-Bombay railway line at Tata Nagar.

On the basis of such a wrong survey conducted by the railway authorities, I would very humbly request the hon. Railway Minister kindly to issue necessary orders to conduct re-survey of this narrow gauge Rupsa-Bangiriposi railway line keeping in view the need to connect it with the broad gauge line near Gorumahisani. Necessary action may please be taken at the Railway Ministry level for its conversion into broad gauge railway line in the first year of Seventh Plan period which will fulfil long cherished demand of this backward tribal area.

(ii) Funds for Modernisation of Orissa Cotton Mills

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): Sir, the Orissa Cotton Mill, Jagatpur, Cuttack, is facing serious financial crises. As per the second phase of sanctioned modernisation programme the mill has to run 25,000 spindles out of which 17,148 spindles have been installed and 8,000 spindles are yet to be installed. The mill has received

materials worth Rs. 128.32 lakhs and the balance of Rs. 50.63 lakhs which has to be provided for machinery, electrical equipment, humidification and buildings, etc., has not been given by National Textile Corporation so far.

The working capital of the mill at present is approximately Rs. 15 lakhs whereas the unit requires a working capital of Rs. 178.95 lakhs. Hence, it is very difficult to run the mill with this meagre amount of working capital. The mill is remaining idle with 17,148 spindles at present.

As part of its modernisation programme, a housing project for the mill was proposed to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 39.42 lakhs. The HUDCO has to bear Rs. 27.50 lakhs and the balance of Rs. 11.92 lakhs is to be provided by the N.T.C. But the aforesaid amount has not been given to the mill so far.

If the mill is funded adequately, it can provide employment to more than 1000 local people. So, it is necessary that the working capital is increased to the tune of Rs.1 crore. At the same time, the Central Government should provide adequate funds for implementing the second phase of the sanctioned modernisation programme of Orissa Cotton mill forthwith.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to Check Illegal Mining of Coal in Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh)

SHRI DALBIR SINGH (Shahdol): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there have been serious instances to show that illegal mining and pilferage of coal have started again in Sohagpur Collieries under the W.C.L. in my constituency of Shahdol. I have received a report that the General Manager of the Sohagpur area was fatally attacked on 4.1.1985 by the gang involved in pilferage of coal, when he went there for a surprise check. A report to this effect was lodged in the police station.