

**[Secretary-General]**

- (5) The Sixth Schedule to the constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1988.
- (6) The National Highways Authority of India Bill, 1988.
- (7) The Constitution (Sixtieth Amendment) Bill, 1988.
- (8) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1988.
- (9) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

12.11 1/2 hrs.

**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE****Thirteenth report****[English]**

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV (Khargone): Sir, I beg to present Thirteenth Report (English and Hindi versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Rate of Dividend for 1989-90 and other ancillary matters'.

12.12 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377****[English]**

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up matters under Rule 377.

- (i) Demand for amending the mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act so as to include only atomic minerals and precious metals in the first schedule thereof

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act and Mineral

Concession rules which govern the grant of prospecting licences and mining leases for different minerals have been amended. The amendments have concentrated power with the Central Government and taken away the residual powers which the State Governments had in the matter of grant and regulation of mineral concessions. The minerals like dolomite, limestone, bauxite, gypsum, kyanite and silimanite etc which were under the control of the State Governments have been taken out of their purview and included in the first schedule. For systematic and expeditious development of the mineral resources in the country, it is essential that the minerals included in the first schedule are confined only to atomic minerals and precious metals. The State Governments should be fully empowered to grant and regulate the mineral concessions in respect of all other minerals.

I request that a comprehensive legislation amending the existing Mines and Minerals (regulation and Development) Act be introduced in the House at an early date.

**[Translation]**

- (ii) Demand for electronic telephone exchanges in Palghat district of Kerala

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Electronic exchanges have not yet been set up in the Palghat district of Kerala. This district where there are many Central Undertakings, is still very backward in respect of telephone facilities. Many of the important tourist centres of the State are located in Palghat. Moreover, this district plays a very important role in the economic development of the State. Besides, the hilly areas of Palghat are inhabited by Adivasis and this is the biggest tribal block in the State. Therefore, it is imperative that the telephone facilities are augmented there and the telephone system is modernised.

I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to set up electronic

\*Translation of the matter Originally raised in Malayalam.