

12.25 hrs.

RULES COMMITTEE

Fourth Report

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-rule (1) of rule 331 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rules Committee.

Sir, with you permission I express my appreciation to those Members from a number of States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab etc, who have had the courage...

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to lay the Report. No speech.

(Interruptions)

12.25 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.26 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1989-90

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1989-90.

12.26 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(I) Need to prevent abuse of Provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): Sir, Section 3 (2) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, as it stands today, permits termination of pregnancy on the grounds that (a) that there is a grave injury to the physical and mental health of the pregnant woman, and (b) if the child is born, it would suffer from such physical and mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

12.27 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Further, in the Explanation under Section 3 of the Act, it is provided that there where any pregnancy occurs as a result of failure of any device or method used by any married woman or her husband for the purpose of limiting the number of children, the anguish caused by such unwanted pregnancy may be presumed to constitute a grave injury to the mental health of the pregnant women. A study of the cases of female foeticide recently made has revealed that the above provisions in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act are being abused for abortion of female fetuses. However, legally under the present law, no action can be taken as it can reasonably be argued that birth of a third female child to a woman already having two female children can cause mental injury to the woman and on that ground, the case may fall under Section 3 of

[Sh. Shantaram Potdukhe]

the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. Government should consider an All India Legislation for banning pre-natal sex determination tests for identifying female foetus and their abortions on this ground. An explanation may be added under Section 3(2) of the Act making it clear that 'birth of a female child shall be no case be presumed to constitute a grave injury to the mental health of a pregnant woman.

(II) Need to provide funds for completion of Budhal-Maheoe-Gool Road

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Sir, on 27th of March, 1989, the Minister of State in the Department of Defence Production and Supplies in the Ministry of Defence in reply to my Unstarred Question had stated that the Border Roads Organisation does not intent to abandon the BUDHAL—MAHEOE—GOOL road in view of its strategic and developmental importance. The hon. Minister nad further stated that an amount of Rs. 385.00 lakhs is required to complete this road. It is learnt that funds have not so far been placed at the disposal of the executing agency with the result that the construction of road is held up and more than a lakh of population is suffering. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that adequate funds may please be provided to the Border Roads Organisation without further delay.

(iii) Need to restore Pantry Car services in Ferozepur—Janata Express Trains

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North): Since August, 1988 Pantry Car services for thousands of second class passengers to Ferozpur Janta Express have been discontinued due to labour trouble. Railway authorities never tried to solve this issue. Railway authorities tried to punish labourers at the cost of passengers' facilities of Pantry Car.

Now it seems that Pantry Car services on this long distance train have been discontinued for ever. It is against the present policy of Railways to provide Pantry Car facility for long distance trains. It is learnt from reliable sources that the problems have been sorted out with most of the labours. Railway authorities should not make it a prestige issue and Hon'ble Minister should instruct Railway authorities to restore Pantry Car services in second class on 23 DN and 24 UP Ferozpur Janata Express trains for the facility of second class passengers.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to give clearance to the setting up of a Growth Centre and Industrial Development Authority for Gorakhpur

SHRI MADAN PANDY (Gorakhpur): The policy adopted by the Central Government for the development of industrially backward areas has been widely acclaimed. In pursuance of the above policy the Central Government has asked the State Governments to select suitable sites for the setting up of Growth Centres and Industrial Development Authority and send a list of the same to the Centre. According to my information, the list submitted by Uttar Pradesh includes the names of Gorakhpur and Janupur, the most backward regions of the State. It is a matter of pleasure that the foundation stone of the Industrial Growth Centre at Janupur was laid recently. But the foundation of the Growth Centre and Industrial Development Authority at Gorakhpur has not been laid so far though an announcement to this effect was made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The centre's clearance in respect of Gorakhpur is still awaited.

I, therefore, request that the Department of Industrial Development, Government of India should complete the formalities at the earliest and give their clearance for the setting up of a Growth Centre and an Industrial Development Authority at Gorakhpur.