

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I cannot allow you to interrupt during the Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Pilot, you please finish your answer.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I would like to assure that 52 lakh commuters who are dependent on this transport system as there is no alternate transport system in Delhi—it is not like Bombay or somewhere else*** (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is not allowed.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I assure the House that we will do our best to improve the transport system and we will keep the expectations of the people who are totally dependent on the road transport system. We will make every effort that the services come to their satisfaction and we will also try to increase the number of buses... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Why did the Government give the assurance ? (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA SAMANT : The pay revisions are pending since long. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already answered it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : With these words, I once again assure the House that the Government is fully aware of the situation and we will do our best to solve it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall adjourn for Lunch to re-assemble at 14.15 hrs.

13:15 hrs

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch at fifteen minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eighteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Demand for a secondary switching area for Idukki district in view of inadequate telecom facilities there.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Idukki is a backward district and telecommunication facilities there are quite inadequate. Most of the telephone exchanges in the district are not functioning properly and there is a long waiting list in all the exchanges.

The development of Telecom facilities in the district is stalled because of the fact that this district is included in the Telecom district Ernakulam with Ernakulam as headquarters of the secondary switching area.

Annexing a very backward district with a developed district like Ernakulam in the matter of Telecom facilities is to the detriment of Idukki district. Public agitations with the cooperation of the elected representatives of the people have been held demanding secondary switching area for the district.

Already a number of representations have been submitted to the Government demanding formation of a new secondary switching area for Idukki district. I urge upon the Government, in view of the fact that Idukki is a backward district and Telecom facilities are quite inadequate, a secondary switching area may be formed for Idukki district.

- (ii) Demand for declaring 14th April, the birthday of Late Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a National Holiday.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD (Chamarajanagar) : Fourteenth April is

the birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who was the nerve centre of the Dalits of this country and epitome of their spirit. He was the torch bearer of their pains, destitution and dark life. He awakened the conscience of the people towards the great doctrines of equality and self-reliance. He was the driving force in the fight for their rights. He was responsible for framing the Constitution of this country. Even today he lives in the hearts of millions of down-trodden and oppressed countrymen.

On behalf of the voiceless and suffering millions, I request that 14th April be declared as a National holiday and the day be declared as "National Day of Equality."

[Translation]

- (iii) Demand for enforcement of 'No Smoking' instructions in D.T.C. buses.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balua) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are several examples which indicate towards the degradation of moral values in the country during the last few years. The persons who respect others' sentiments and care for the conveniences of their fellow beings have become a rare commodity in this country. Its living examples can be seen in the Delhi Transport Corporation and Inter State buses where the passengers vie with each other in the matter of smoking. Today, the smoking is considered to be matter of pride. Although, it is written in the D.T.C. buses that 'Smoking strictly prohibited', yet the passengers can be seen smoking in these buses very often. Whether or not co-passengers can withstand cigarette or bidi smoke or it is otherwise harmful to them from health point of view, the smokers least bother. Many times, the drivers and conductors are also seen smoking in the buses. Although the drivers and conductors are supposed to stop the passengers from smoking in the buses, yet instead of stopping others, they themselves can be seen smoking in buses.

I strongly demand that the Government should direct the drivers and the

conductors of the public transport to ensure that nobody smokes in the buses. It will not only give relief to the non-smoking people, but will also help in getting rid of ill effects of smoking.

- (iv) Demand for a sugar mill and other industries in Faizabad (U.P.)

SHRI R. P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, setting up of industries is a pre-requisite for the development of any area. There is no industry worth the name in Akbarpur and Tanda Tehsils of Faizabad district in Uttar Pradesh though thousands of acres of land suitable to the industries is available at these places. The setting up of heavy and small industries is a must for the development of this area.

The Central Government had issued a licence in 1976 for the setting up of a Cooperative Sugar Mill in this area and shares worth Rs. 17 lakhs are still with the farmers. But, I am sorry to say that the licence of this sugar mill was cancelled in 1978-79. The sugarcane growing farmers are in very large number in this area and all of these face a great deal of problem due to the closure of the Shahganj Sugar Mill.

I, therefore, strongly demand that the Central Government should issue a licence for the setting up of a sugar mill at any place in Akbarpur or Tanda Tehsils to safeguard the interests of the farmers and should also accord approval for setting up a heavy industry to facilitate all round development of this area.

[English]

- (v) Demand for a fertilizer plant in Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA (Shahjahanpur) : A firm commitment was given to the people of Uttar Pradesh by the former Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and then by Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi that a gas based fertilizer plant will be set up at Shahjahanpur. This proposed fertilizer plant was supposed to start production by 1990. A letter of intent was first issued to D.C.M. Fertilizers and then to the APJ Fertilizers.