

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

INDIAN RAILWAYS
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSILAL) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railway Act, 1890.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890.”

The motion was adopted

SHRI BANSI LAL : I introduce the Bill.

12.18 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we go to matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

(i) Need to set up a T.V. Centre at Basti in Uttar Pradesh

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Doordarshan definitely plays a very important role in the country's progress by way of imparting education and disseminating information to the citizens in every field and making them good citizens. There is a scheme under the Government's consideration for providing education in schools and colleges in the near future through the Indian satellite Insat B-I. This scheme covers programmes from basic and primary education to adult education. Very useful and valuable programmes are being telecast on T.V. for farmers in the country. Even now India is predominantly an agricultural country and three-fourths of her population

is dependent on agriculture. The farmers are provided information regarding increasing the production and use of modern techniques for improved methods of cultivation. In this way, it is clear that Doordarshan is not only a means of entertainment but it telecasts programmes which are very useful in every walk of life. It is a matter of happiness that the Government of India are setting up T.V. Centres rapidly on a large scale. District Basti of Uttar Pradesh occupies second place in the State so far as population is concerned, but the percentage of literacy is very low there even now and most of the people are living below the poverty line. No T.V. Centre has so far been set up there, whereas T.V. centres have been functioning in districts surrounding District Basti like Deoria, Gorakhpur, Faizabad etc., for the last several years.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting that early steps may be taken to set up a T.V. centre in District Basti, keeping in view its backwardness and in public interest.

[*English*]

(ii) Need to declare Trivandrum Aerodrome as an International Airport

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : Sir, The Trivandrum Aerodrome is one of the busiest airports in India where at present 16 International flights are operated a week. Kerala is the foremost contributor of traffic to and from the Gulf countries. But this aerodrome has not been officially declared an International airport on the ground that it cannot take bigger aircraft like Boeing 747 and DC 10.

The Trivandrum airport can conveniently accommodate several of the smaller aircraft operated by International airlines. Development works such as extension of run-way, installation of approach lights and telecommunication equipments for night landing etc. are going on at full pace. On completion of these works, the Trivandrum aerodrome will be able to operate International aircrafts of any kind. A major portion of the passengers from Madras and Malaysia and Singapore are from Kerala. It is, therefore, necessary to introduce the operation of such flights from the Trivandrum airport.

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