

13.08 hrs.

**MOTION RE : JOINT COMMITTEE
ON LOKPAL BILL**

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : I beg to move :

“That this House do appoint Shri Ajit Kumar Saha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith, *vice* Shri Amal Datta resigned.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do appoint Shri Ajit Kumar Saha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith, *vice* Shri Amal Datta resigned.”

The motion was adopted.

13.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to ensure early payment of Pension, Provident Fund etc. to the pensioners and take stern action against employees responsible for causing delay in such payments

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is sad that the condition of Government employees becomes pitiable when they do not get pension and provident fund—which are their own savings—immediately after retirement. They have to run from pillar to post for years to get that amount. Sometimes, the poor pensioner dies because of this harassment. As a result, neither he nor his family gets the pension or provident fund.

The only reason for this negligence and unsympathetic attitude of the officials of the concerned department towards their work and pensioners. All this is going on in spite of the clear cut instructions of the Government that the pensioners should get pension and all other facilities as soon as they retire and the payments should be finalised six months in advance.

I, therefore, request the Government to take stern action against indifferent officers and staff of the departments who are responsible for such delays so that such cases are not delayed at all and this nation-wide problem is solved.

- (ii) Need to open Navodaya Schools in Pithoragarh and Almora Districts of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision of the Government to open Navodaya schools in every district is a commendable one, but while doing so, priority has not been given to the tribal, border and backward areas, and particularly to those districts which have been classified as such by the Planning Commission. This is a big blunder on the part of Ministry of Human Resources Development, which should be immediately rectified. The hill areas of Uttar Pradesh which have been treated as classified areas by the Planning Commission have not been included by the State Government in the list of districts which has been sent to the Central Government for opening the proposed Navodaya Schools. The border districts of Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Uttar Kashi and Tehri Garhwal, which are predominantly tribal areas have also not been included in that list by the State Government.

This disparity should be removed and Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh should be included in the proposed scheme of opening Navodaya Schools this year.

[English]

- (iii) Need to connect various important places in Orissa by Vayudoot Service

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Vayudoot Service is available in many