

12.26 hrs.

## REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I introduced the Bill.

12.27 hrs.

*[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]*

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

*[English]***(i) Need to ensure early Conversion of Hospet-Hassan-Mangalore narrow gauge Railway line into Broadgauge**

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA (SHIMOGA): A company in private sector has now proposed to set up an integrated Steel Plant at Mangalore with a capacity of one million tonne, which is estimated to Rs. 2000 crores. The State Government has decided to provide all necessary support and assistance to this ambitious project.

This Steel Plant will depend on imported coal making use of the port facilities at Mangalore, however, the entire iron ore requirement will have to come from Bellary-Hospet area. This would mean movement of around 1.2 million tonnes of iron ore from Bellary-Hospet.

Presently Mangalore is connected to Bellary-Hospet area by meter gauge line via Chitradurga and Hassan large quantities of iron ore transported from Bellary-Hospet to Mangalore have to be transhipped from broad gauge to meter gauge at Hassan. This would explain the amount of difficulty posed to the Railways as well as to the operation of the Steel Plant. It is felt that with such constraints as Integrated Steel Plant may not really become viable.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister of Railways to take immediate steps to convert the Hospet-Hassan-Mangalore line to broad gauge on top priority basis which would be a boon to the many large industries proposed at Mangalore.

*[English]***(ii) Need to protect crops from Rojes (Neelgai)**

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been growing menace of Rojes (Neelgai) who enter the agriculture fields in large number and eat away the standing crops of the farmers in Rajasthan, particularly in its Pali district. The Department of Forest under the Government of India has not

succeeded in solving this problem despite its continuous efforts for the last 5 or 6 years.

Sir, the farmers of Rajasthan, and especially the farmers of Pali district are too worried to sleep and they have to keep vigil on their fields for whole night yet their standing crops are destroyed and they are left weeping on their helplessness but the Government does nothing to solve this problem.

Sir, I request the Central Government to construct fenced enclosures for confining these Rojes and the farmers should be accorded suitable rights to combat this menace and protect their crops.

*[English]***(iii) Need to take early steps for modernisation, electrification of Sealdah-Lalgola Railway Section of Eastern Railway**

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): The prevailing condition of Sealdaha-Lalgola Railway Section in West Bengal under Eastern Railways fails to cater to the growing needs of the passengers. No step has yet been taken to modernise this section. Since independence, no attempt has been taken to fulfil the increasing demand of the people for electrification of the railway-line from Krishnanagar to Berhampore or for the extension of electrification of the same line up to Lalgola. Even, people's demand for D.M.E.U. from Ranaghat Jn. to Lalgola Station in expectation of more benefit to be given to daily passengers, has not been accepted for a long period. It is a fact that this Sealdaha-Lalgola Section is having some special importance.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to ensure modernisation, electrification and total development of this section.

**(iv) Need to promptly investigate the Mumbai Bomb Blasts case and to book and try the culprits expeditiously**

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): It is now two years that severe bomb blasts in Mumbai (Bombay) on 12 March, 1993 killed more than 300 persons, injured thousands and property worth crores of rupees was destroyed. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister affirmed that Pakistan have masterminded these bomb blasts and that the Government would promptly investigate and book the culprits. 196 persons were chargesheeted for different offences including the offence of waging war against the State.

Though two years have elapsed, all the accused have not been arrested so far. The trial is moving at a snail's pace. Just a few months before the Mumbai blasts, there was a similar blast in U.S.A. The offenders have not only been arrested, but have also been tried and punished. The inordinate delay in the case of Mumbai blasts is causing concern and anguish in the minds of the countrymen, particularly of Mumbai.

The Judge trying the case has also recently received threats from the Dubai based suicide squad.

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