

14.00 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS
FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE**

Minutes

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on 29th March, 1995.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up matters under Rule 377.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay South Central) : This is a very important matter, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, it is over now...

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Since I am not being heard, I stage walkout.

14.01 hrs.

Shri Mohan Rawale then left the House

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : Sir, all this should be expunged from the record.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : I hope, nothing has gone on record, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes.

14.01½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for Construction of a New Railway Line Linking Digha in West Bengal with Jaleswar in Orissa

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Sir, the traffic density from Digha in West Bengal to Jaleswar in Orissa via Chandaneswar, has reached the maximum point. The development of road from Jaleswar to Chandaneswar had not been taken up earlier by the State Government, so the road has been left in a very wretched condition. There is a demand for construction of a new railway line, linking Digha and Jaleswar in

* Not recorded.

Orissa. This project should be immediately surveyed and taken up, so that the long standing grievances of the people of this locality may be redressed.

(ii) Need to Exempt Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies from Income Tax

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN (Chidambaram) : Sir, in Tamil Nadu, there are nearly one thousand seven hundred handloom weavers' cooperative societies, catering to more than fifteen lakh weavers and their families, spread over the entire State. The weavers' societies were enjoying exemption as cottage industry for more than three decades but during 1989, they had been subjected to tax, on the ground that weavers use outside hired labour in the process of weaving. However, their taxation problem was redressed after suitable clarifications and instructions.

During 1994, tax exemptions were granted to all the handloom weavers' societies in Tamil Nadu, excepting the societies in Kurinjipadi of South Arcot in Vallalar District, even though they had satisfied the condition of non-engagement of outside hired labour. The Income-tax Department had started taxing the societies at Kurinjipadi on the ground that dyeing and bleaching, warping, sizing and marketing of the products are done by the societies as a common facility, and not by the members. Also, the Government's interference in fixing the price of raw materials and the wages of weavers, helping the weavers in designing the products and the administration of the societies by Government officials in the absence of an elected body, had been very badly criticised, and the exemption to the societies has been withdrawn on the above grounds.

By taxation, more than one thousand six hundred weavers' families are affected.

I request the hon. Minister for finance to restore exemption to the societies in Tamil Nadu and render justice to the poor weavers living in Kurinjipadi.

(iii) Need to set up the Proposed University of National Capital Territory at Ghaziabad (U.P.)

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : The National Capital Region Planning Board has decided to set up a university in National Capital Region. My Parliamentary Constituency Ghaziabad is the most suitable place for this purpose. It is in the National Capital Region, it is an industrial area and a developed district. All the infra-structure necessary for a university are available there. This is the one Municipal Corporation in NCR and has 12 degree and post-graduate colleges where all the subjects are taught.

Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should set up the university being proposed in NCR only in Ghaziabad.