

15.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twelve minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT)
BILL**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up matters under Rule 377.

15.13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) *Need to lay a new Railway line from Kottayam to Madurai*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : The people of Kerala have been demanding for a new railway line from Kottayam to Madurai for a number of years. The proposed railway line will cover the backward hilly areas of Kerala such as Kottayam and Idukki districts. This will enable the development of the area as well as a boost to the rubber and cardamom plantations. Farmers in these areas are facing a lot of hardships due to the lack of transport facilities.

**Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 10-8-93.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to take necessary urgent steps for laying of a new railway line between Kottayam and Madurai without delay.

(ii) *Need to extend the benefits available under the Central Government Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme to Goa Freedom Fighters also.*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAUHAN (Karad) : Government of Maharashtra gives a special Freedom Fighter Sanman Pension to Goa Freedom Fighters and Satyagrahis. These people who risked their lives to liberate the Portuguese-occupied territory of Goa are freedom fighters in every sense of the word.

I, therefore, request the Union Government that the benefits under the Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme of the Central Government should be extended to the Goa Freedom Fighters without delay. The information about these freedom fighters can be obtained from the Government of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa.

(iii) *Need to provide compensation to the farmers whose crops have been affected by flood of Ghaghar river in Rajasthan.*

[Translation]

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH (Bikaner) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently 42,000 cusecs of water has entered Rajasthan from the O-II Headworks in Haryana as a result of floods in Ghaghar river. The flood-water has broken all the previous records. This flood-water has spread over an expanse of 170 kilometres in Rajasthan. Many villages have submerged and crops of paddy and Narma Cotton worth crores of rupees have been damaged due to these floods. Few days back, the hon. Prime Minister conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas of the Ghaghar river in Haryana and announced a compensation of Rs. 1000 per acre to the farmers whose crops were damaged.

I, therefore, urge that the hon. Prime Minister may make an aerial survey of the 170 kilometre flood-hit area of Rajasthan and announce compensation for the affected farmers on the lines of compensation given to the Haryana farmers.