

Monday the sitting of the House is over by 6 O' Clock.

Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it would not be proper that after holding the discussion on the matter today, reply is given tomorrow itself as suggested by him. But there should be a fulfilled discussion on it and reasonably sufficient time should be given for the same.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—
Contd.

15.31 hrs.

(iii) Need to make Indian languages the medium for examination conducted by UPSC.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian languages should be made the medium for examinations conducted by UPSC for the sake of democracy, social justice and social integrity of the country. Hindi has been declared the official language under the Constitution of India. It is very necessary to give proper status to regional languages at the state level and official language Hindi at the national level for the smooth administrative functioning. However, English continues to occupy a predominant position even after 46 years of independence. If Indian languages are made the medium for examination conducted by UPSC, it would increase the dignity of these languages, promote national integration and provide opportunities to the regionally talented candidates to come forward and join Government services. The Parliament has also passed a resolution to that effect twice to provide that the medium of all the examinations should be Indian regional languages. However, these Resolutions have not been implemented effectively so far. Since Indian languages have not been made the medium for examination conducted by UPSC

there is a widespread resentment and discontentment among the Indian youth. I would, therefore, like to urge the Central Government, not only to make these languages the medium of UPSC examinations with immediate effect, but also to do away with the compulsion of English as a medium of such examinations and thus give a dignified status to Hindi for that matter.

(iv) **NEED TO INTRODUCE RAJDHANI EXPRESS BETWEEN DELHI—BOMBAY—V.T. VIA CENTRAL RAILWAY ROUTE.**

[English]

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol):
There are two Rajdhani Express trains running between Bombay—Central via Kota and Baroda on Western Railways. However, there is not even a single Rajdhani Express for Bombay V.T. via Central Railway route. There is general feeling among the people residing at Agra, Jhansi, Bhopal and Nasik for introducing Rajdhani Express. The difference in distance between Bombay and Delhi via Western Railway and Central Railway route is about 140 kilometres only and the running time will be only one hour and twenty minutes more. The proposed train will be touching Bhopal and two Railway Divisional Headquarters of Jhansi and Bhusaval. It will also touch the historic city of Agra and industrially affluent town of Nasik.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Railway to introduce Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Bombay V.T. via Central Railway route.

(v) **NEED TO IMPLEMENT KAYAMKULAM THERMAL POWER PROJECT IN KERALA.**

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey) : Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Central Government the inordinate delay in implementing the Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Project even as the State of Kerala is facing acute power shortage. After the disintegration of erstwhile U.S.S.R. which had agreed to fund the project, the Central Government had promised to seek help from Japan

But it is known that OECF has not agreed so far to fund the project as they do not see the coal linkage feasible. The coal can be brought from Talcher to Alleppey Fort via Paradeep. For this, a little improvement has to be done in the Alleppey Port. This will be a great help to both the project and for the development of Alleppey.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to initiate urgent measures to manage OECF assistance. I also request that the NTPC should implement the project even if OECF refuses assistance. The people of Kerala are much agitated over this matter and on the 14th December a bandh is being observed in Alleppey district for the same.

15.41 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

EXPLOSIONS ON FIVE PRESTIGIOUS PASSENGER TRAINS ON 5/6-12-93

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. K. Jaffar Sharief) : It is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of the unfortunate occurrence to 5 prestigious passenger trains at various locations on three Zonal Railways in the late hours of last night and early this morning. Blasts of explosive devices occurred on 2306 Dn Rajdhani Express running from New Delhi to Howrah, 2301 Up Rajdhani Express ex-Howrah to New Delhi, 2951 Dn Rajdhani Express ex-Bombay Central to New Delhi, 9022 Up Flying Rani Express ex-Surat to Bombay, and 2723 Dn Andhra Pradesh Express ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi. While the explosion in 2306 Dn Rajdhani Express occurred around 23.00 hrs. on 5-12-1993 between Kanpur and Allahabad stations of Northern Railway causing injuries to 2 Bearers, all the other four explosions have taken place this morning between 05.00 hrs. ad 07.10 hrs. In all, 1 passenger has been killed and 18 others have sustained injuries.

The explosion on 2723 Dn A.P. Express ex-Secunderabad to New Delhi took place in one of the Second Class coaches while entering Maula Ali station on Secunderabad-Kazipet section of South Central Railway at 07.10 hrs., leading to death of 1 passenger and injuries to 11 others. The

injured have been admitted in the Railway Hospital at Secunderabad. On Western Railway, 2951 Dn Rajdhani Express suffered an explosion between Indergarh and Amla stations on Kota-Gangapur City section. The explosion took place in a Chair Car, resulting in injuries to 4 passengers. In another incident on Western Railway on Surat-Bombay section, the explosion took place on 9022 Flying Rani Express while the train was entering Bhestan station in a double decker Second Class coach, resulting in injury to 1 passenger who has been admitted in the Civil Hospital at Surat. In the fifth incident of the series, 2301 Up Rajdhani Express running from Howrah to New Delhi also had an explosion this morning in one of the Chair Cars between Panki and Bhaupur station on Kanpur-Tundla section. Fortunately, in this incident, one more device was recovered from another coach which exploded subsequently at Bhaupur station.

In all these occurrences senior Railway and Civil officers reached the respective sites and necessary medical and allied arrangements were made. The cases are being registered with the police. Fortunately, none of the explosions led to fire on running trains. Ex-gratia payments to the affected passengers are being made.

The planting of these devices on selected prestigious trains seems to indicate a design to create scare among public. Security arrangements have been strengthened in coordination with the respective state police authorities. The directives have been given to the Railways to intensify checks and inspections of empty coaching rakes coming from maintenance lines as also on the persons leading to any suspicion. Instructions have also been given to deploy dog squads wherever necessary. Special checking arrangements are being made at the platforms, coaches and other strategic locations. The Ministry of Home Affairs have been requested to conduct detailed investigations into the blasts.

My colleague, Shri K. C. Lenka, all Railway workers and I extend our heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the deceased and sincere sympathies to the