

Valley by these roads. Since the partition of the country, these roads remain closed. The two routes have been replaced by (a) vehicular Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, and (b) establishment of rail head at Jammu.

Jammu & Kashmir generally does not suffer from any major difficulty in transportation except in the winter when National Highway often suffers from road blockades causing severe problems and stoppages in communication lines and transportation of goods.

If the Government of India succeeds in having any arrangement with Pakistan for opening Srinagar-Rawalpindi Road and Suchetgarh railway link, it would go a long way to further boost the socio-economic and cultural relations between the two countries. Besides, the tourist industry and fruit produced in abundance in valley can find another outlet in the international market.

The Government of India should convince Pakistan Government that the roads can be opened on the pattern of Wagha border at Amritsar which allows transit to passengers and trade and commerce though on a limited scale between the two countries under bilateral agreements, for the common good of the two peoples living in two neighbouring States.

12.25 hrs.

[SHRI R. S. SPARROW *in the Chair*]

(ii) Need for taking steps for re-opening of Tactflo Coir Factory at Ammandivilai (Kanyakumari).

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Under Rule 377, I make the following statement:

The Tactflo Coir Factory at Ammandivilai in Kanyakumari district is now closed for about two years due to inordinate delay in according the renewal of registration and also due to other discriminatory treatments shown against it. The closure of this factory which is largest in the country has caused the displacement of large number of labourers. Ancillary industries in the locality are also affected severely. This factory is the only industrial establishment in the private worth the name in Kanyakumari district which is declared as an industrially backward district. So, in the public interest the factory should be made to function

without any more delay either by facilitating the company to carry on the factory by according renewal of registration immediately or by taking over the company by the Government. If the factory continues to remain closed without immediate steps for its reopening the prevailing grave situation among the displaced labourers and others in the locality would greatly deteriorate. So Government may be pleased to take speedy steps for the immediate functioning of the factory.

(iii) Need for Simplifying the procedure for sanctioning pension to widows of freedom fighters.

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip): On the death of a freedom fighter holding pension as such, the widow is entitled to a family pension. But according to the present procedure, the concerned widow, old and bereaved and often helpless, has to apply and go through all the paraphernalia at State and Central levels which take a long time. In extreme case, the poor lady dies before the pension reaches her. Government should make the family pension meaningful, take steps so that necessary particulars, photo, etc., of the wife are filed with the Directorate together with that of the freedom fighter concerned, so that on his death the widow is sanctioned her due pension automatically without going through the long drawn-out process.

(iv) Need for re-orientation of Radio and Television programmes.

DR. V. KULANDAIVELU (Chidambaram): Under Rule 377, I make the following statement:

Need of the hour is to re-orient to the scientific temper and rationalistic ideologies for social reorganisation and attainment of socio-economic prosperity of our country. In this regard the mass media like television, Radio and press have a major role to play for spread of scientific and rationalistic ideologies. It implies that superstitious and age-old irrationalistic mythological ideologies are given undue importance in the scheduled and unscheduled Programmes of Radio and Television in our country with special reference to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry in the name of cultural programmes, religious discourses, Temple Car Festivals, Temple renovation ceremonies, dramas based on fictitious stories of the so called Gods and Goddesses.