

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER ; The question is :-

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the development under the control of the Union of the oilseeds industry and the vegetable oils industry and for matters connected therewith.”

*The motion was adopted.*

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

Therefore, I request the Railway Minister that in view of the inadequate railway facilities in Kerala a survey may immediately be undertaken to construct the Kottayam-Madurai broad gauge railway line.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mohanlal Patel—Not here. Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat.

(ii) Need to provide barbed fencing around Army firing range at Pokharan

12.15 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Demand for Construction of a broad gauge Railway Line between Kottayam and Madurai.

SHRI SKARIAH THOMAS (Kottayam) : Sir, Kerala has a legitimate grievance that it has not received a fair share of railway development. The total kilometrage of railway line in Kerala is far below the national average, and this has created serious impediments in the economic development of the State. Kerala consists of three distinct geographical entities namely the highland, midland and the coastal region. The main railway line passes through the mid-regions and a large chunk of the population living in the highland do not have any rail facilities. It is this region which produces various cash crops which earn us valuable foreign/exchange. Thus, there is a long-standing demand that a Broad gauge line from Kottayam to Madurai should be constructed to cater to the needs of the people of this area. This railway line could touch important cash crops-producing areas like Ponkunnam, Kanjirappally, Mundakkyam, Peerumede, Kumali etc. and help the quick transportation of these crops. This line will bring about allround development of the state as it can give an impetus to the important commercial activities.

प्रो० निर्मला कुमारी शक्तावत (चित्तौड़गढ़) : मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान राजस्थान के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र पोखरण की महत्वपूर्ण समस्या की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी। पोखरण में सेना का चांदमारी क्षेत्र है जो सेना की निजी संपत्ति है पर यहां तारबंदी न होने से कई पशु तथा मनुष्य अकाल मौत मरते हैं।

भूखे प्यासे पशु तो पहुंचते ही हैं, इस क्षेत्र के मानव भी अपनी भूख मिटाने के लिए गोला बारूद के खाली खोके-बीनने चले जाते हैं। चांदमारी क्षेत्र में पीतल के खाली खोके इकट्ठे करके यह 25 या 30 रुपए प्रति किलो के हिसाब से कबाड़ी के यहां बेच देते हैं। जाने-अनजाने में जब कभी खाली गोला बारूद बीनते हुए कुछ बचा हुआ बारूद छूट जाने से बह मृत्यु के आस हो जाते हैं।

अतः सरकार से मैं पुरजोर शब्दों में निवेदन करूंगी कि इस चांदमारी क्षेत्र की तारबंदी की जानी चाहिए।

गोला बारूद के खाली खोकों के धातु के टुकड़ों के लेन-देन को संगीन अपराध घोषित किया जाना चाहिए।