

The reason why we did not immediately appoint a Commission, or refer it to the CBI, is that we wanted to ascertain the facts before doing so. I explained even at the beginning and in the early stage of the debate that this Government did not want to emulate the previous Government in the matter of appointing Commissions of Inquiry. We do not want to do it without having at least *prima facie* case.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Except for Jamshedpur.

SHRI R. VANKATARAMAN : You are in the habit of saying things totally irrelevant to the subject under discussion. Therefore, I cannot answer that.

The point really is this that without a *prima facie* evidence or collecting a material, this Government did not want to do it. We are now going into it. We will examine the whole thing and, if it is warranted, neither the Commission nor the Inquiry is excluded. That is what I said. I did not put it positively; I put it negatively. If it is warranted, we will not shirk from doing it; we will certainly do it.

I thank the House for the co-operation it has given me.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) SETTING UP OF A POWER PLANT AT MAJHEA IN WEST BENGAL

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up matters under Rule 377.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA. (Vishnupur) : Sir, at the meeting of the Power Ministers of the Eastern Region at Calcutta in February last, the Energy Minister stated that the DVC's Project at Majhia was not being taken up on the plea that the coal in Majhia is of high quality. In this regard I would like to draw the attention of the House to the report of the Geological Survey of India that the Majhia coal could be used for thermal power generation and that a sizeable reserve of coal from this area could be a potential source for the Santaldih Thermal Plant, located 64 km. to the west of any other plant that may be set up nearby.]

The Government of West Bengal has already drawn the attention of the Central Government to set up a pit head power plant at Majhia. But the DVC and the Central Electricity Authority indicated that they were unable to proceed with the project at Majhia because the low rate of coal mining by Coal India Limited in

the area would be inadequate to support a power station in this region. I feel that the rate of mining in the area ought to be stepped up since the site was suitable for a power plant. The West Bengal Chief Minister has already drawn the attention of the Energy Minister to augment the rate of mining at Majhia.

Some help could also be extended if transport of coal from the left bank of Damodar can be made possible by building the railway link from Bankura to Raniganj. This project is under consideration of the Railway Ministry for a long time.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Energy Ministry to take up the matter for building the railway link with the Railway Ministry and the Planning Commission and other Central Government agencies to accord approval to the project for setting up the power station at Majhia pit head. I demand that the Energy Ministry ask the DVC and the Central Electricity Authority to set up the power plant and issue necessary instruction so that the power plant comes up at Majhia within a short time.

(ii) NEED FOR IMPROVING TRAIN SERVICES IN ORISSA.

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi) : I wish to make the following statement under Rule 377 relating to the serious shortcomings prevailing in the passenger trains running through Khurdha Road Division of Orissa. The passengers travelling in these trains are facing immense difficulties in the absence of the minimum facilities that are generally provided to the passenger trains running in other States.

The Government of Orissa is in constant touch with the South-Eastern Railway Headquarters, Calcutta, to remove the weak tracks which were laid during the British period. The people of Orissa, the Railway Unions and several other organisations have submitted a number of memoranda to the Railway authorities to improve the railway tracks either by immediate repairing or replacing them with the new lines. Unfortunately, the railway authorities do not seem to attach any importance to this matter as the conditions continue to linger on in its worst form.

It is a matter of great regret that the old engines engaged to pull the passenger trains had never been replaced with new

[Shri Rasabehari Behera]

engines despite the fact that these engines have become badly worn out working as they are for more than a few decades. Even the minimum facilities like drinking water, lights and fans have not been provided in the trains running in Orissa.

The plight of summer passengers in the absence of fans and drinking water is beyond description. To save their belongings at night the passengers have to struggle hard with the unscrupulous and anti-social elements who enter the trains and trouble the passengers very often.

In view of the shortcomings cited above, I demand the Government of India that the following measures should be taken immediately to avoid accidents and to maintain punctuality in the passenger train services and make the train journey more human.

Firstly, a thorough investigation should be conducted to find out the reasons for the irregularities prevailing there. Secondly, old and weak tracks should be repaired without any further delay. Thirdly, the old engines should be replaced by the diesel engines. Minimum facilities like light, fans, and drinking water should be provided forthwith in all trains. Ticketless passengers should be given severe punishment. Police protection should be given to night passengers travelling in the trains as the number of thefts on trains in this division has increased very much of late.

(iii) NEED FOR PUTTING UP A T. V. RELAY TRANSMITTER AT A PLACE BETWEEN DELHI AND MATHURA.

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH (Firozabad): I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the fact that the people of Mathura, Agra and the adjoining areas are being totally deprived of the facility of a TV Reception even from Delhi Doordarshan Kendra which is the nearest TV centre for this area. This area cannot receive signals from the Lucknow Centre. So many people—mostly the middle class ones—own TV sets in these areas but, in spite of their having spent a good deal additionally on TV signal boosters and on installation of high and larger antennas, the reception they get is unsatisfactory, uncertain and distracted by other internal and at times by certain foreign TV stations.

I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to direct that a TV Relay Transmitter be put up somewhere between Delhi and Mathura, at Chhatta or Kosi Kalan or even at Vrindavan in order to relay Delhi Doordarshan Kendra's programmes

for the benefit of the people including the rural folk of Mathura, Agra and the neighbouring areas preferably before the ASIAD 82.

I would also request the hon. Minister to direct the Delhi Doordarshan to include programmes of dance and songs in Brij Bhasha for at least 15 minutes daily.

(iv) STAFF QUARTERS FOR E. S. I. HOSPITAL (IN NAC AREA OF JODA IN ORISSA).

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government about certain difficulties of the staff of the E. S. I. Hospital Joda, in Orissa. This E. S. I. Hospital has been established in the year 1978. Funds have already been allocated by the Union Ministry of Labour for the construction of staff quarters near the premises of the Hospital. But construction work has been delayed beyond the target time of completion. The slow progress of work has put the staff in great difficulties. This Hospital is situated in the N. A. C. area of Joda where rented quarters are available, as most of the areas in and around the N. A. C. are under the possession of Tata, Birla and several other private limited companies. They have taken the occupation of the entire iron-ore belt around Joda on long term lease. Under the circumstances, the doctors and particularly the Class III and Class IV employees of this Hospital are passing days without any accommodation.

In view of this, I demand the Government of India to take immediate steps to expedite the construction of staff quarters.

(v) NEED FOR INSTALLING A RADIO STATION IN THE BORDER DISTRICTS OF BARMER—JAISALMER

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) : सभापति महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्न वक्तव्य सदन के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करता हूँ.—

सूचना एवं प्रसारण विभाग द्वारा देश में उच्च शक्ति वाले ट्रांसमीटर महत्वपूर्ण नगरों एवं शहरों में न लगाने के कारण देश के बाँस प्रतिशत भाग रेडियो प्रसारण की सुविधा से बिल्कुल वंचित रहते हैं। यह अधिकांश भाग सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में आये हुए हैं। मिर्जोरम, लेह, यू० पी० के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र जो कि चीन और नेपाल की सीमाओं पर हैं, बाड़मेर एवं जैसलमेर जिलों के 60 हजार वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र जो कि पाकिस्तान की सीमा पर