

16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Pon-nani): The recent escalation of communal violence in several parts of the country, particularly in Moradabad which is still simmering in communal fires for three months since the unprovoked firing upon Muslims at EID prayers on 13th August, 1980, demands serious attention of the Government. While the entire situation needs a number of long-term measures, some steps need, to be taken urgently.

The continuous barrage of concocted and untrue reports have ever since kept the fires burning. The involvement of even police officials and national news agencies in circulating such reports is shocking and needs stern action. Recently on 25th October, 1980 a news item was flashed by the PTI with date-line from Lucknow to the effect that according to a police official 15,000 hand-bombs had been recovered from an underground factory inside a mosque in old Lucknow and that such bombs had been used in Moradabad and Aligarh. The news later proved totally incorrect. I urge upon the Government for deterrent punishment against the police official responsible and the concerned PTI officials for the most reckless manner in dealing with and in circulating the inflammatory story.

The plight of the innocent victims of communal fury is pathetic. Let the Government without any further delay, undertake compensation and occupational rehabilitation of those who have suffered. Urgent steps are needed to restore the economy of the craftsmen and help the uprooted labour.

While the guilty have to be dealt, with sternly, the harassed have also to be saved from the current indiscriminate arrests and the plethora of fabricated cases, through having a quick screening of all cases by an impartial machinery. As a result of this screening, action be taken against the officials responsible for fabrication of cases. Further, a lot of damage has been done during curfew hours. The Central Government should ensure that immediate action be taken against police officials posted in areas where loot and arson occurred during curfew hours, for their criminal failure to enforce curfew and protect life and property. The continuing delay in dealing with cases of dereliction of duty, as also in taking action against those responsible for the aforesaid 13th August massacre, is injurious to the proper functioning of law and order machinery.

(ii) *Re* TWO RAILWAY DIVISIONS LOCATED IN KERALA.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): *Train services were disrupted recently as a result of strike by a section of employees under Trivandrum Division demanding transfer of Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari line to Madurai Division from Trivandrum Division.

The Trivandrum Division of Railways come into existence in response to a long standing demand of the people of Kerala. There is an apprehension that the lines under Olavakkede (presently Palghat Division) Division will be taken out and a separate division will be formed either in Karnataka or in Tamilnadu. The strike resorted to by a section of the employees has only heightened the apprehension.

The people of Kerala apprehend that if the Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari line is taken out of the Trivandrum Division, it would affect its very existence as it has just enough mileage of lines under it to exist as a division. The

*The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.