

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for
Medical Sciences and Technology,
Trivandrum

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS
AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C. P. N.
SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 5 (j) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 5 (j) of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

14.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULES 377

(i) NEED FOR BETTER TRANSPORTATION
FACILITIES ON THE RAILWAYS FOR
BETEL GROWERS OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS
OF WEST BENGAL

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA
(Tamluk): Under Rule 377, I am
making a statement.

The betel leaf growers are not getting their remunerative prices for their produce in the districts of Midnapore, Howrah and Hooghly of West Bengal for a long period due to the inadequacies of transportation facilities by the Railway.

Betel leaves being highly perishable require quick transportation. But the Railway authorities have practically withdrawn the betel basket booking facilities from Bagnan station in the South-Eastern Railways and Srirampore Station in the Eastern Railways.

Tamluk sub-division of the Midnapore district is the vital betel leaf growing area, producing 50 per cent of the total production of betel leaves in India. For the transportation of this huge production Mechede and Panskura stations in the South-Eastern Railways are very important. But, unfortunately, the existing booking facilities of betel baskets of these two stations have been restricted and as a result the prices of betel leaves have gone down.

Practically, the betel leaf growers of these areas are getting no price for their produce. This creates hardship and discontent among them. This is being reflected through different types of agitations—such as conventions with big gathering, demonstrations and deputations to different administrative authorities including the Railway authorities. This agitation has now spread to the remote corners of the said three districts demanding quick and regular transportation of betel baskets from Mechede, Panskura, Bagnan and Srirampore stations.

Some discussions were arranged with the Railway authorities. Some decisions were taken but the problem remained unsolved. To discuss this problem, the Chief Secretary of West Bengal convened a meeting on 6th