

17.30 hrs.

DEVDAASI AND MURLI PRACTICE
(ABOLITION) BILL*

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी (अमरावती) । उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करती हूँ —

“कि भारत में देवदासी तथा मुरली प्रथा को समाप्त करने का उपबन्ध करने वाले विधेयक पर विचार किया किया जाये।”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may continue your speech next time.

17.31 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

ACQUISITION OF IMPROVED DESIGN OF
BULLOCK CART WHEEL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up the Half-An-Hour Discussion. Shri A. Neelalohithadasan Nadar. Why not you change your name as Shri N. L. D. Nadar?

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: You can call me like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a Half-An-Hour Discussion. After that is over, I will call Shri Vajpayee.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Sir, Pandit Nehru has once remarked that India continues to live in the bullock cart age. And that is a sentiment, which is still true today, despite the country's recent leap into space and other technological advances.

Ours is an agriculture-oriented economy. According to a study conducted by the Planning Commission in 1959-60, 58 to 95 per cent of arrivals of the agricultural produce is on bullock carts. There are

about 140 lakh bullock carts in use in India. The aggregate investment on bullock cart transport system (including the cost of the bullocks) is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 3,000 crores, whereas the respective investment in the Indian Railways is Rs. 4,000 crores and on public goods transport on roads is Rs. 2,500 crores.

Sir, it is a pity that the Government of India and our agricultural research institutions are not paying much attention to the nature and quality of the bullock carts in India and their improvement. So, according to the Government's statistics only 5 per cent of the bullock-carts are of improved type. So, we are forced to think of new bullock-carts which may be of improved quality.

There was a question by Shri Indrajit Gupta on New Bullock Cart Wheel dated the 8th March, 1982:

“Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the new report published in “Times of India” dated 9 January, 1982 about new bullock-cart wheel designed in Australia;

(b) whether Government propose to import this Bullock Cart for trials which will also help to train the ICAR Scientists who have been working on similar projects for years;

(c) whether any such similar improved bullock cart has been designed by the ICAR at their Bhopal Institute or at IARI, New Delhi or at NDRI, Karnal, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are aware that this would form an important part of research and ICAR should be directed to pay attention to this aspect specially in view of the energy crisis facing the country?”

The answer given was: