

12.18 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED LARGE SCALE MAL-
PRACTICES INDULGED IN RECRUIT-
MENT BY RAILWAY SERVICE COM-
MISSION BOMBAY.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY
(Bombay North East) : Sir I call the atten-
tion of the Minister of Railways to the fol-
lowing matter of urgent public importance
and request that he may make a statement
thereon :-

“The situation arising out of the repor-
ted large scale malpractices indulged in
recruitment by the Railway Service
Commission, Bombay.”

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOU-
DHURI): Based on complaints of malpractices
in conducting the examination and selection
of candidates through the Railway Service
Commission, Bombay, towards the middle of
1982, a preliminary investigation indicated
involvement of the Member Secretary of that
Railway Service Commission, based on which
he was placed under suspension from August,
1982.

An investigation was taken up by the
Vigilance Organisation of the Railway Board
which prima facie indicated malpractices in-
volving a number of candidates, especially in
the matter of recruitment of Categories 23,
25 and 46 pertaining to Telephone Operators,
Clerks, Assistant Station Masters, Guards
etc. and Electric Signal Maintainers.

In the matter of Categories 23 and 46,
for which panels had been published, such of
those detected to have indulged in mal-
practices are being removed.

In the case of Category 25, the largest
one, out of nearly 13,500 cases screened,
6,076 appeared to be involved in malpractices.
Hence, the final panel was not permitted to

be published, though a provisional panel
had been released earlier. Here again, similar
to the action taken in respect of Categories
23 and 46, those pin-pointed as having indul-
ged in malpractices will be removed. There
would appear to be prima facie involvement
of the Chairman of this Railway Service
Commission in these cases, though that
would need to be established in greater de-
tail by the C.B.I.

As the investigations would involve not
only officials of the Railway Service Commis-
sion, Bombay, but a number of outsiders
who would appear to be in collusion, it was
decided that the detailed investigation should
be done by the C.B.I. who have been request-
ed now to go into this.

In this context of the above, it was de-
cided withhold the results of this selection till
the completion of CBI investigation. Action
to terminate the service and other action
against the Chairman of the Railway Service
Commission, Bombay, as necessary, would be
pursued based on the investigation report and
conclusions of the C.B.I.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Sir,
we have to be grateful for small mercies
shown by this Government. While I will say
that the Minister's reply does not completely
satisfy me it does not leave me largely dis-
satisfied. But nevertheless, I do compliment
him that he did not try to make a complete
job of a cover-up. The fact has been admitted
that there is a malpractice.

Now, this House has got to know about
it because of an article written by Vidya
Subramaniam in the INDIAN EXPRESS no
relative of mine, you can be sure of that.
She is a young girl in '20s who is coming up
well in the profession. We should congratu-
late her instead of looking for other motives-
This has made it possible for us to take cog-
nizance of it. Such investigated journalism
should be welcome. I know, this Government
is a little nervous about investigated journa-
lism. But this is necessary.

The most important thing that has to
be done by the Railway Minister is to res-
tore confidence of the public in these exami-

nations. It has now been almost completely eroded. Wherever you go, you find people say that by this influence and that influence, you can get your marks changed or you can get selected if you do not do well in the examination. The MODUS OPERANDI is very well known. It has been written in the newspaper also. There are very easy techniques. If you do not give a correct answer, you get a zero and, if you put another zero, it becomes 8 marks. This is one MODUS OPERANDI. Another MODUS OPERANDI is that you give a blank answer paper, and the examiner himself writes out the correct answer and then marks on it. These kind of things have all been brought to light. What is necessary is the restoration of this confidence. We cannot really play with the younger generation because they are idealistic and if they become cynical at this young age, their examinations have no value. Their merit and hard work has no value. Then this country will be in a very sorry pass.

This particular case came out because of two young girls, one by the name, Delfina Gonsalves and the other by the name of Vimal D'Silva. Gonsalves got 84% of the marks but she was not called for the interview. Vimal D'Silva got 67% of the marks and she was not called for the interview. And people who did not even give answers, they were called in their place. They were substituted. Only because of their alertness, this matter came to be known.

Railway is a very big industry. It is the lifeline of the country. 1½ million people work in it. Rs. 6,000 crores of national assets are locked up in it. We must have able people, if this kind of people, who do not qualify in examinations, get in by cheating method, what will happen to the railway?

The Railway Reforms Commission has already said that 95% of train collisions are due to the poor quality of the work of the staff. If this is the examination system and if this is the Service Commission which is going to feed into it, then it is bound to lead to a situation where the railways itself and in fact, the whole country will be in peril.

It is very necessary for the Minister to take up this matter extremely seriously. Take it on a war footing, as one may call it and restore public confidence as quickly as possible.

With this background, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister a few questions. First, the Hon. Minister mentioned about the preliminary investigation indicating involvement of Member-Secretary of Railway Service Commission and, therefore, he was placed under suspension. And suspension when? August, 1982. I would like to know what is the charge-sheet supplied to him. What is the progress of the enquiry since 1982? The Hon. Minister says that the CBI is investigating. Yes, CBI is looking at the menace general involvement and here is a case of a person who has been suspended, a Member-Secretary of the Railway Service Commission, look at the high office he holds. He has been suspended. Has he been served with charge-sheet? What is the progress of enquiry? Have you appointed an Enquiry Officer because sometimes CBI enquiries are also ways of subverting the enquiry. There is no rule which says that you cannot conduct both these enquiries simultaneously.

Secondly, they appointed another man in his place called Shri N.K. Ahuja. According to the report of the Indian Express, he was terrified by the gangsterism in this Railway Service Commission and, as soon as he took over within a short period, he voluntarily said "I want to leave. I want to go back to my parent Organisation" and he went back. Now what are the circumstances? Has he filed a report? Has Mr. Ahuja tell the Minister in advance? This happened some time ago. I am leading up to the fact whether the Railway Ministry has woken up to this recently or whether all this information was available earlier.

It says in paragraph 3 that such of those detected who have indulged in malpractice have been removed. That is fine. What about those two bright girls, Delfina Gonsalves and Vimal D'Silva who got such high marks and, who have been impersonated and others have been taken in?

What about they **who** have done a great public service to this country by exposing all this, by fighting all **these** things through? Most people give up. Have you done any thing for them? Have you rewarded them?

12-26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Have you made this an example for the country that here these two people who have got a public spirit have been rewarded so that it becomes an example for the people? I want an answer to this question from the Minister. I hope the Minister will remember all these questions. At the end, the Minister should not say that "I am looking into the matter."

When I am asking all these questions, you must protect me. Otherwise it becomes very difficult. What is the meaning of Call Attention?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : To protect Swamiji : A human-being like me.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I am glad that former Members of DMK have belief in God.

Paragraph 4. There would appear to be a prima facie involvement of the Chairman of the Railway Commission. What action have you taken against this Chairman? Why was this Chairman brought?

When Prof. Dandavate was Railway Minister, he found a very clean man who was the Vice-Chancellor of Marathwada University by name Mr. Kharat. He was appointed.

He was appointed and he had an impeccable record. But as soon as they came in, of course not this Minister but his predecessor removed him. Only because he was appointed by the Janata Government perhaps! "The Janata Government appointed honest people, you must remove them" they must have thought, and they brought in

this man Mr. Ramayya who, it is now clear by the Minister's own admission, is under suspicion. What is the action you have taken? Mr. Ramayya goes to the extreme of replying to this article in the INDIAN EXPRESS dated May 4, 1983. The original article came on April 29, 1983. This man replies and he gives an arrogant reply in which he says, 'a gentleman'. I will read out for you. This is a matter of public record. The future generation should read this Parliamentary debate on Calling Attention Motion and see what kind of things were going on in this country - hoping that the country will improve in future. It says :

"In February, 1983, as a matter of fact, an unknown individual..."

It is Mr. Ramayya, the accused, who is saying :

"...an unknown individual, claiming knowledge of the details of investigations currently in progress at the Railway Service Commission, attempted blackmail on Mr. Ramayya for an amount of Rs. 1 lakh in return for toning down the alleged vigilance report against him."

Of course, Mr. Ramayya says, 'I promptly rejected the offer'. But who is this 'individual'? Let the Railway Minister say. Here is an individual who has gone to the Railway Service Commission Chairman and said, 'Give me 1 lakh and I will tone down the Vigilance Committee Report'. who is that 'individual'? You get this out of Mr. Ramayya, if you have not already got it out of him.

I would say that it is fine that the matter has gone to the CBI. I have no quarrel with it. If he had not said it, I would have demanded. I am happy, in advance, he has asked the CBI to do. But I am surprised at this. The Railways has its own intelligence force. There are such widespread malpractices in all Service Commissions-Bombay is only one; there are eight others also-and there have been reports appearing in the press here and there. What was the intelligence force of the Railways doing all this time?

Were they not filing reports? Now they are acting; now they say: CBI inquiry. But what was your Ministry doing before? What was the Railway Board doing? What were the various General Managers doing? Have they not been feeding information? They have a railway intelligence unit also. What was that doing. I want to know. This means that the whole Railways need to be revamped. He has revamped the Railway Board. Are you satisfied with that or are you going to go a little further into a major revamping? There are large scale malpractices. Now it is public knowledge.

I will go back and say that public confidence has to be restored by an action. This country has so much unemployment; you would be surprised to know that, for 300 Class III posts in Calcutta, 40,000 applications were received recently. What is a Class III post? It is a clerk's post. For 300 such posts, 40,000 applications were received. All these people are being exploited. In fact, a few months ago, the CBI had to arrest a railway employee who was giving false appointment letters and sending people to various places. This kind of thing is going on.

Therefore, I would like to know the answers to all these questions I have asked. I would like a high-powered inquiry into the whole set-up. This is a particular case for which the CBI may do. But he must order a high-powered, thorough inquiry into the whole set-up of the Railway Service Commission.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I equally express my concern about the whole matter with the hon. Member. It is indeed very distressing. The hon. Member knows that the Railway Service Commission consists of Chairman and a Member-Secretary. It is only in rare cases that AD HOC Members are appointed. The selection of Chairman of the Railway Service Commission is done by the Union Public Service Commission from a panel of names supplied by the Ministry of Railways. So, selection is done by the Union Public Service Commission, Not that only all the time, as you are trying to impress.

We are making political appointments. It is not the case. But; unfortunately, there are black sheep and we are sorry for that.

With regard to your specific queries, I want to answer that the initial investigation started in June 1982. It was actually when public complaints from various sources reached the vigilance of the Railway Department that they started the investigation SUO MOTU on the basis of these complaints, not that the Railway administration ordered or I ordered or anybody ordered.

Now the basic complaints which are borne out after the preliminary investigation by the Railway vigilance are - they are very serious - changing of applications, missing attendance sheets, impersonation in the written test, holding up of answer books for 14 months without evaluation, fabrication, Sir, I am not shielding anybody, I am not hiding anything from this House - fabrication of answer sheets and presence of duplicate answer sheets with the same roll number, marks do not tally between the answer books and the summary sheets, increased marks in the objective written tests subsequent to evaluation by the examiner, deliberate change in the tabulation sheets to make the candidates qualify for the interview....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: What has the country come to?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: ...extensive manipulation of marks by overwriting after finalisation of summary sheets....

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Terrible.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: These are the basic complaints that the vigilance got to start with. This is against a Member-Secretary and also against the Chairman. After preliminary investigation indicated involvement of Mr. D.S. Narkhede, Member-Secretary who was placed under suspension since August 1982....

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Given a charge-sheet?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Now we got the specific charges against the Railway Service Commission between August 1982 and February 1983. The following are the charges against the Service Commission Chairman-supplanting of the original application of the candidate by a fresh application from another candidate for monetary consideration, resorting to arbitrary increases in marks without authority in several cases, inclusion of nine rejected candidates arising out of vigilance scrutiny in the provisional panel in violation of the Railway Board's decision. He insisted on the Member-Secretary, Shri N. K. Ahuja of the Railway Service Commission to show him the question paper for the mass examination that was to be conducted on 6.2.83 a week earlier to the commencement of the examination.

Issued regular appointments to three candidates of the Railway Service Commission. Bombay, without any authority.'

This is the Vigilance Report we got. The House, the Hon. Members, may ask me, why we have not taken action against the Chairman till to-day.

It seems to us that a number of outsiders are in collusion with this gentleman. He is not alone. So, we have entrusted this matter to the C.B.I. I think we will do our best to get the full report from the C.B.I. and certainly what is necessary to be done to penalise the wrong doer. I can assure the House and the hon. Member, we shall do. There is no doubt about that. I entirely agree that confidence has to be restored. We cannot play with the lives of the youngsters.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER - Really with the meritorious candidates.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : The hon. Member asked : why Mr. N.K. Ahuja left. He left on his own. He did not tell us. He wanted a transfer and so, we transferred him about a month back or so. Naturally, it now indicates that probably he was not happy in those circumstances and probably he knew a lot of things. He was quite uncomfortable and was not happy. In those circumstances, he sought his transfer.

(Interruptions) I am trying to give all the answers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is very frank to give the replies. Why can't you hear him patiently ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Sir, the hon. Member has referred to the two lady candidates. The news item in the INDIAN EXPRESS of 29th April, 1983 referred to changing of applications of two ladies after the conduct of the written test. These two cases have also been detected during vigilance scrutiny. Swapping of applications after the conduct of the written test was also known to the Vigilance. The hon. Member asked me pointedly as to why the lady candidates was not rewarded etc. The cases are not over. After the cases are over, we shall certainly look into that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : I hope she would get it before she reaches the retirement age.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : I think I have replied to all your questions.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMI : Why was the Railway Service Commission Chairman appointed by the Janata Government dropped by you people ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not know that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That does not come within the purview of the Calling Attention.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, I rise on a point order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You cannot raise a point of order in the Calling Attention.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Pramila Dandavate. Not here. Shrimati Kishori Sinha.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : You must congratulate the Minister for being frank enough.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not know why extraneous things are brought in. That is why I don't allow that. Don't bring in politics. You should not inject politics in these discussions such as the Janata Government appointed him but the Congress (I) dismissed him. I do not interested in that. I am rather interested in the subject-matter. Now you inject politics Dr. Subramaniam Swamy.

I would not allow any political discussion. I am not interested in the politics of any Member.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Sir, I am glad that the Minister has taken action in this case. I am happy he does not want to shield anyone. Anyway, it is clear that malpractices are committed by the Railway Service Commission. Even though the instances relate to the Railway Service Commission, Bombay, yet such mal-practices are committed in other Commissions also. There are cases of candidates having been selected without ever appearing at the test/examination conducted by the Commissions at Allahabad and Muzaffarpur. And if at all they were shown to have taken the examination, those were fake examinations. Is it not a matter of surprise that while Matriculates qualify and are selected, graduates and post-graduates fail to make the grade ?

Sir, it is a widespread malady which needs drastic curative action. Government also seems to be aware of this fact as they have already referred the case of Bombay to CBI. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Railway Minister addressed a confidential communication to all General Managers—as has been reported in the PATROIT dated 16.12.1982-expressing shock at the extent of corruption in the Railways. May I know if the Railway Minister has

received any information about the corruption in the Railway Service Commission at Allahabad and Muzaffarpur. Thirdly, I would like to know whether the Railway Minister has decided to open eight more offices of the Railway Service Commission. If so, what safeguards are being proposed to be taken to prevent such mal-practices. Lastly, I would like to know whether FIR in the present case has been made.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that this is not the first time that a thing like this has happened. In 1977-78 there were three cases where the Chairman of the Railway Service Commission were removed on account of lack of integrity.

Sir, at the present moment there are a total of 16 Railway Service Commissions on the Railways dealing with recruitment of Class III staff. Seven Service Commissions have been recently set-up and they are yet to start recruitment. The Railway Service Commission, Bombay caters to four divisions etc. As the hon. Members know this, I need not waste time on this.

Sir, annually, between 6 lakh to 10 lakh candidates sit for the examination every year all over the country and about 10,000 persons are recruited by the Railways through Railway Service Commissions.

Sir, I have been asked whether an FIR has been filed or not. I am not in a position to say it just now because it has been given to CBI and I have also explained the reason why it was handed over to CBI, namely, a large number of outsiders are included in it.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY :
When was it handed over to CBI ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : I think a month or so back. It may be ten days this side or that side or may be I am wrong.

May be I am wrong-But it is not long ago.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : But not after the Calling Attention Notice was given...?

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I would request the hon. Minister that he should enquire into the specific matter regarding the appointment of candidates by the Railway Service Commission in Muzaffarpur and Allahabad. I would like to know whether the persons selected are genuine or fake.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : At the present moment, I do not have any information to give. As I told you, whatever information I had with me, I have given about the particular case.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wanted to make serious allegations against the Railway Service Commissions, but I am quite satisfied with the Statement of the hon. Minister. He has himself mentioned all those points which I wanted to raise.

(Interruptions)

Sir, it is a common practice of all the Railway Service Commissions to favour certain candidates and deprive of some people from the opportunities to serve the railways. It was even found that interview letters reach the candidates after the interview time and dates are over and we have been receiving complaints of this kind. First I felt that I should not take up these matters with the Minister because no action would be taken against the persons concerned. But now I feel that I was wrong in not taking up those complaints with the Minister because the hon. Minister is taking action against them. These things have been discovered by the journalists and they have published them in the INDIAN EXPRESS. I would request the hon. Minister that instead of having a CBI Enquiry, he should appoint a Judicial Enquiry so that everything could come before us.

(Interruptions)

I am talking of all the Railway Service Commissions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Gopal Reddy is diverting your attention. Don't pay attention to him. You are making a very good point.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : He said the correct thing. There are complaints that most of the Railway Service Commissions are not functioning properly. There was a complaint against a Senior Divisional Traffic Superintendent of South-Eastern Railway; Howrah. The CBI had detected that he had taken bribe in 1982. But no action was taken against that person.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Calling Attention Motion concerns only the Railway Service Commission, Bombay. You are bringing in something to which he may not be able to reply. It is not a general discussion. It is not connected with all the Railway Service Commissions. He may not be able to give reply to these points.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : Sir, I am talking of C.B.I. Enquiry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In Calling Attention Motion, nothing beyond the matter under discussion is discussed. Just now the Minister was replying to a query raised by Shrimati Kishori Sinha that this particular information could not be furnished immediately. So, you will also get the same reply from the hon. Minister.

You restrict yourself to the points at issue; the subject is malpractices indulged in recruitment by the Railway Service Commission, Bombay.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : When we speak on something, we try to give certain information to the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are preparing the background, but you may not get a reply to many points.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : I was talking about the findings of the CBI, but no action has been taken. Is it wrong to say that? Similarly, complaints were made against other officers in Kharagpur, but no action was taken by the General Manager of the concerned Railway. If I quote that instance, you will say that I am going out of the subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think, You do not have sufficient material on the subject.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : In my opinion, retired Railway officers should not be appointed Chairmen of the Railway Service Commissions. This is because generally, it was found that such officers had not acted properly, and there had been a lot of complaints against them. My suggestion, therefore, is that Chairmen of the Railway Service Commissions should be appointed from amongst the persons belonging to the judiciary. A retired High Court Judge, or this kind of persons should be appointed. Will the hon. Minister consider my suggestion?

At the same time, the hon. Minister can also appoint persons from the academic institutions as Chairmen of the Railway Service Commissions. Prof. Madhu Dandavate, as the Railway Minister, had appointed Shri Kharak as Chairman of Railway Service Commission, Bombay. He was a very honest and capable person. The hon. Minister should also try to have some top academicians from various institutions and Universities etc. for this purpose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : These Chairmen of the Railway Service Commissions are appointed by the Union Public Service Commissions.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : It is all right.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : I would like to inform my friend that we can appoint any retired Railway officers, or any eminent public men. There is no bar.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Even M.P's.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : My emphasis is on persons belonging to judiciary. I would request the hon. Minister to consider my suggestion.

It has also come to our notice that results were not declared by the Railway Service Commission after one year of the examination. And during this period several manipulations had taken place. I would like to know from the hon. Minister names of such Railway Service Commissions which had held examinations, but had not declared results even after one year. Will the Government take steps to see that the results are declared within three months after conducting the examination? Will the Minister try to do something in this direction?

I have got information that candidates belonging to Jhansi division of the Central Railway were called for examination at Bhopal and Jabalpur. After that they were called for interview at Mathura and Agra. Again, there was a psychological test and they were called for this at Bombay. Some of the students have written to the various Members of Parliament; they wrote to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others. They had been forced to spend more than Rs. 500/- or even Rs. 600/- for this while this interview and psychological test could have been taken simultaneously at one place. But it is very bad practice that poor persons, who are jobless, and are in search of jobs, are being called to various places many times, and in that process, they are spending a lot of money. Will the hon. Minister look into this and stop this kind of practice?

I would also like to know whether he would consider the appointment of retired Air Marshals, Lt. Generals and other persons of services as Chairman of the Railway Service Commission?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir with regard to the allegation of general corruption in the Railways, well, I don't know about it and

I will seek his help. If he helps me I will certainly combat the general corruption. Whatever comes within our knowledge, we try to do away with that. We penalise the wrong doer. There is no mercy on that. There is no political consideration on that and in that regard I can assure the Hon. Member.

Now, in regard to Hon. Member's suggestion that only retired Railway officers should not be the Chairman of the Railway Service Commission, I have said that anybody can become Chairman. There is no bar.

Then, Sir, from the date of advertisement to the publication of panel, it takes minimum 18 months. There are various phases and this takes minimum 18 months. It cannot be done in six or eight months as the Hon. Member has suggested.

With regard to the Centres, I may inform that there may be one hundred to three hundred Centres in which the Railway Service Commission may hold examination depending on the number of applications. About the Centre also we cannot just say because it all depends on the number of applications. So, that is all that I can answer to the Hon. Member.

12-57 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) NEED FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC STEPS TO FIND A PERMANENT SOLUTION FOR ERADICATION OF DACOITY.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mere liquidation of dacoit gangs, by Police or through surrender cannot serve as a long-term solution to the problem of dacoity in the backward Chambal area unless specific measures are adopted aimed at removal of socio-economic factors giving rise to the new gangs.

It is imperative that immediate, effective steps are taken for removal of adverse socio-economic factors so as to find a permanent solution to the problem. Increasing minor

and medium irrigation facilities, setting up small and medium industries, provision of electricity, road construction, setting up vocational schools and ITIs would greatly improve socio-economic conditions.

I am suggesting measures with short gestation periods so that there would be an impact within a short period. I suggest that the Central Government set up a high-powered committee with a Union Cabinet Minister as Chairman and including amongst its members the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh along with some MPs and high officials. This Committee should undertake an indepth study of the steps to be taken to improve the socio-economic conditions and prepare a time-bound programme for the development of such areas. These should be financed by Planning Commission providing special allocations for dacoity declared districts, just as is done in the case of tribal or hilly areas. I strongly recommend that the Union Government take a decision on this in the near future so as to eradicate dacoity and enable people of Chambal region to join the national mainstream of progress under the sagacious leadership of our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

13-00 hrs.

(ii) NEED FOR INCLUSION OF ALLAHABAD UNDER D.P.A.P. SCHEME FOR ITS PROPER DEVELOPMENT

श्री कृष्ण प्रकाश तिवारी (इलाहाबाद): भारत सरकार द्वारा डी पी ए पी (सूखोन्मुख क्षेत्रीय विकास कार्यक्रम योजना) देश के विभिन्न जनपदों में चलाई जा रही है। इस योजना का लक्ष्य है कि ऐसे जनपद और क्षेत्र जिन में सिंचाई आदि की समुचित सुविधा नहीं है और प्रायः हर वर्ष या दूसरे, तीसरे वर्ष सूखा पड़ने से प्रभावित होते रहते हैं उनका विकास किया जाए जिससे वहां के रहने वालों का स्तर ऊंचा उठ सके। इसी योजना के अन्तर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश में इलाहाबाद जनपद में भी डी पी ए पी योजना अनेक वर्षोंसे