

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

cutta. The Project at its present stage is extremely vital. The two phases in which work has so far gone on relates to disconnected areas and will not serve any purpose whatever to solve the transport problem in Calcutta. The work of Metro Railway Project has seriously dislocated the traffic in Calcutta, adding to the difficulties of the people, but they have so far patiently borne the same with the hope that the scheduled completion of the work will considerably ease the problem. But, from the present decision of the Planning Commission, it appears that work from Shyambazar to Esplanade sector will be taken up only after the work in other phases is completed in 1985-86, which will mean that work will go on till 1990-92. It is reported that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has already taken up the matter with

the Centre. I urge upon the Government to take a firm decision to continue the work in all the phases so that the entire project can be completed by the scheduled time in 1985-86. I also call upon the Government to provide a circular railway for Calcutta, has been strongly recommended by the State Government.

(iii) REPORTED NON-COVERAGE BY ALL INDIA RADIO OF THE NEWS ABOUT ELECTIONS TO THE SHIROMANI GURDWARA PRAHANDHAK COMMITTEE.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO. WALIA (Paridkot): The All India Radio has literally ignored the recent news item regarding the elections to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee in its All India News Bulletins. More than 40 lakh Sikh voters used their right to elect 140 Members to the supreme Sikh religious body. The elections were held under the Government's supervision and more than 950 persons contested the election in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The Akali Dal won 133 seats out of 140. This supreme body had been constituted under the law of Parliament in 1925. The SGPC is considered the only representative body of the Sikhs of the world. More

than 15 million Sikhs all over the country have been eagerly waiting for the results, but AIR totally blacked out the news. The news was published in Punjab papers with PTI and UNI as sources. Even the regional news bulletin did not give coverage. It is a grave insult to the sentiments of Sikh voters and interested masses.

(iv) REPORTED IRREGULARITIES IN THE RAILWAY BOOKING OFFICE AT TRIVANDRUM CENTRAL.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon): Long before I started for the present Budget Session to Delhi, I had confirmed bookings at Ernakulam for one coupe and four first class berths in the Kerala-Karnataka Express. But when the reservation chart came from Trivandrum, I and my family were allotted four II Class air-conditioned berths. As my sister-in-law is a filarial patient, she fell sick and is even now convalescing.

I went back for an intermediate journey to Kerala and I had confirmed booking through the Parliament House Railway Booking Office for a coupe for me and my wife. But the Trivandrum Central Station Superintendent gave the upper berth of my coupe to a male passenger, and allotted a first class berth to my wife in a four berth compartment along with three male passengers in the Kerala-Karnataka Express of 29th March, 1979.

I did not like railway officers allotting many male passengers in her compartment during her night trip when I am travelling in the same train. As I feel other passengers would also resent the railway officials allotting sleeping berths to other male passengers similarly, strict instructions may be given through the Ministry of Railways to all Booking Offices to allot coupes to adjoining seats/berths to passengers who come with confirmed reservations.