

have been possible. I believe, that in order to achieve the best results, there should be even closer relation and purposeful interaction between labour and management. As the head of the vast family of railwaymen, I pledge on their behalf, that we shall march forward with total commitment and dedication towards achieving the corporate goal of meeting the growing traffic needs of the country, at the least cost of the society, while at the same time, maintaining the financial viability of the system.

With these words, Sir, I now commend the Railway Budget for 1990-91 to the House

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

13.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty-nine minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, let us take up matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to promote sale of coffee

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): The fall in price of Coffee in the international market has adversely affected the coffee growers of all coffee exporting countries, especially of India. Some of the countries have tried to help the growers by removing all levies on coffee. In

India also it is necessary to help the coffee growers not only by suspending all levies but also by attempting to find better markets for them. It is reliably understood that thousands of tonnes of coffee is lying in the godowns for want of a remunerative market.

My constituency of Cannanore, which includes Wynad also contributes considerably to the coffee produce of the country. It is, therefore, requested that all levies on coffee may be suspended at least until the international situation improves. The Government may also kindly render assistance to the coffee growers by exploring the domestic market to promote sale of coffee.

(ii) Need to popularise 'Bag and Mask System' to save new born infants from untimely deaths

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berrampur): Nearly 2,40,000 new born babies die and another same number develop brain damage annually in our country due to lack of oxygen within the first 30 minutes after birth. All of them could be saved if their problem is recognised by trained birth attendants and mid-wives. Every 30 seconds a child dies or gets mentally handicapped due to asphyxiation.

While a measure of success has been achieved in combating visual and orthopaedic handicaps, not many strategies have been developed for combating mental handicaps in the country.

Until now, the traditional birth attendants and mid-wives generally clean the mouth to remove secretions or pat the baby to start the breathing complex. Sometimes mouth to mouth resuscitation is also given, but it could lead to the baby getting infections.

Bag and mask system is a single system under which the mask is tightly fitted on the face of the baby and the bag connected to it is regularly pressed to see that air passed into the child, leading to the expansion of the lungs. This device, costing approx. Rs. 200 only has been found success-

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

ful. Such devices should be popularised in the hospitals and mid-wives can use them provided they are properly trained. Thus millions of children can be saved.

In view of the high child mortality rate in the country, I urge the Government to popularise Bag and Mask System to save the new born infants from untimely deaths.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to implement the Abid Hussain Committee Report to revive the Powerloom Industry in Ahmedabad and its adjoining areas

SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL (Godhra): During the last few weeks, the supply of all types of synthetic yarn to Ahmedabad has been very much curtailed. It has seriously affected the production in 3000 powerlooms in and around Ahmedabad. According to the handloom industry sources, this shortage is due to the diversion of large supplies of yarn to the markets in Uttar Pradesh, where a number of new handloom cooperative societies have been set up recently.

The difference in price of yarn in the markets of Uttar Pradesh and that of Ahmedabad indicate that the handloom cooperative societies buy that yarn on large scale and re-sell it to the consumers at high prices.

Due to the large scale export of indigenously produced yarn in the country, there is shortage of yarn which results in continuous pressure on its price. The recommendation of the Abid Hussain Committee with regard to the price structure of yarn should be considered.

So, I would request the Central Government to assist the Government of Gujarat so that the powerloom industry is not affected adversely.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to provide 'Local Call' telephone facility between Bombay and New Bombay

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAV-INCHANDRA MEHTA (Bombay North-East): New Bombay was built keeping in view of the growing population of Bombay and many business enterprises and industries have been shifted from Bombay to New Bombay. If a person in Bombay has to talk to another person in New Bombay or *vice-versa*, on the telephone, he can do it only through STD call. There is no provision for a direct call. One can make a direct call to Thane from New Bombay which is situated at a still longer distance. Due to big difference between local call and STD charges, common people face a lot of inconvenience in making a call between Bombay and New Bombay and have to spend a lot of money for this purpose. Owing to these reasons, I request that necessary provisions may be made in the telephone exchange to provide direct call facility between Bombay and New Bombay.

[English]

(v) Need to bring down the prices hank yarn

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, sharp rise in prices of hank yarn in recent times has seriously affected the handloom industry of our country.

Handloom and powerloom sectors of our country are seriously suffering from the high prices of hank yarn in the domestic market. Particularly, the poor weavers of our country have been placed in a very serious situation. The consumers, particularly the poorer section of the people, are forced to purchase cloth at a higher price.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to review the whole situation and take necessary steps to bring down the prices of hank yarn.