

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I cannot allow you to interrupt during the Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Pilot, you please finish your answer.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I would like to assure that 52 lakh commuters who are dependent on this transport system as there is no alternate transport system in Delhi—it is not like Bombay or somewhere else*** (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please order.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is not allowed.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I assure the House that we will do our best to improve the transport system and we will keep the expectations of the people who are totally dependent on the road transport system. We will make every effort that the services come to their satisfaction and we will also try to increase the number of buses... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Why did the Government give the assurance ? (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA SAMANT : The pay revisions are pending since long. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already answered it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : With these words, I once again assure the House that the Government is fully aware of the situation and we will do our best to solve it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall adjourn for Lunch to re-assemble at 14.15 hrs.

13:15 hrs

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch at fifteen minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.18 hrs.

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

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Demand for a secondary switching area for Idukki district in view of inadequate telecom facilities there.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Idukki is a backward district and telecommunication facilities there are quite inadequate. Most of the telephone exchanges in the district are not functioning properly and there is a long waiting list in all the exchanges.

The development of Telecom facilities in the district is stalled because of the fact that this district is included in the Telecom district Ernakulam with Ernakulam as headquarters of the secondary switching area.

Annexing a very backward district with a developed district like Ernakulam in the matter of Telecom facilities is to the detriment of Idukki district. Public agitations with the cooperation of the elected representatives of the people have been held demanding secondary switching area for the district.

Already a number of representations have been submitted to the Government demanding formation of a new secondary switching area for Idukki district. I urge upon the Government, in view of the fact that Idukki is a backward district and Telecom facilities are quite inadequate, a secondary switching area may be formed for Idukki district.

- (ii) Demand for declaring 14th April, the birthday of Late Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a National Holiday.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD (Chamarajanagar) : Fourteenth April is