

The task of bringing about "Better Communication", as entrusted to us by the Prime Minister shall be attended to at all levels in the Department, with dedication and commitment. I shall report to this august House the progress made in this regard.

12.15 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI VSHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of section 12 (1) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of section 12 (1) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (I) Need to take necessary measures to improve rail facilities in Bihar.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna) : Sir, Bihar is an economically backward state. To improve its economy, it is essential that rail facilities are improved :

1. *Rail bridge on the river Ganges at Patna* : This bridge will connect North and South Bihar and will greatly facilitate the movement of goods from one part to another. Many a time assurances have been given that this bridge will be taken up for consideration by the Government. Unfortunately; nothing has been done so far. The matter has been raised by many Members in Parliament. Some of the districts of the North Bihar will be immensely benefited by this bridge.
2. *Doubling the single line between Patna and Gaya* : This line again carries heavy load of traffic. Its doubling is over-due and it should be done without any delay.

[Translation]

- (II) Need to take necessary measures to prevent theft of precious antiques in Bihar.

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Bihar is an important state of India, having old traditions. Every Indian is proud of historical and religious traditions of Bihar. Bihar has also been an old Centre of various religions and knowledge as also birth place of tenth guru of sikhs and field of activities of Muslim Saints and Lord Buddha and Jain Tirthankars. Mithila is considered to be the "birth place of Sita". Bihar has been a land of temples and various stories of Puranas. It has made a special contribution in the integration of the country. At present, precious antiques and rare pieces of art, statues and paintings are being stolen and smuggled out of the country.