

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.

[Shrimati Madhuree Singh]

The smugglers are indulging in the theft of antiques located in various parts of the country. If our pieces of art are smuggled out of the country in this manner, our precious antiques would vanish from our country. There are a large number of antiques in Bihar. Theft of rare antiques is taking place at Rajgir, Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Patna, Bhagalpur, Katihar and Darbhanga etc. Effective steps are required to be taken urgently for the protection of rare antiques. Recently, a rare antique of Chaturbhujji Saraswati has been stolen. It has also been reported that the idol of Lord Vishnu has been defiled. Idols of Shiv Parvati have been stolen in Vajjiganj, idol of Ganeshji of old black stone weighing approx three quintals has been stolen in Jamnava and many idols of Ashtdhatu (an alloy of eight metals) have been stolen from Bhagalpur museum. Some of them belong to eighth or ninth century and are valued at crores of rupees. I request the Government to take urgent steps to protect these idols of artistic value. Connected with old culture of Bihar so that these antiques presenting old heritage of our country could be protected.

(iii) Need to give unemployment allowance to the unemployed youth of the country.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : The increasing unemployment problem among the educated, skilled and unskilled youths of the country is a matter of serious concern. Lakhs of youths are facing the problem of unemployment. There is a ban on recruitment in different services and the youths are not hopeful of getting employment in future also. Due to shortage of electricity, slow pace of industrial development, maximum use of automatic machines and expansion of higher education, unemployment among the youths is increasing. There seems to be little hope for its solution. Cottage industries are not being expanded to the desired level and efforts of the Government are not adequate and the loans provided by the nationalised banks are discriminatory and these loans are provided to the youths belonging to the rich and well-to-do families and not to the needy persons. In such a situation, un-

employment allowance should be provided by the Government to the unemployed youths with a view to removing their difficulties.

[English]

(iv) Need to direct the Commercial Banks in Orissa to help the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Cooperative Corporation in disbursement and recovery of loans.

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani) : The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Finance Co-operative Corporation, Orissa is assisting SC and ST persons in taking up economically viable schemes with provision of margin money upto 25% of the Unit cost of the scheme. The Corporation not having a network of field organisation which involved high operational cost, the margin money is to be routed through the Commercial Banks. The Commercial Banks are to agree for disbursement and recovery of margin money loan on behalf of the Corporation along with the Bank loan, as otherwise adequate benefits cannot flow for the rapid economic development of SCs and STs. Some of the Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks have made necessary tie-up arrangements with the Corporation. But there are other commercial banks and regional rural banks who are still unwilling for recovery of margin money loan along with the bank loan. As such, I request the Finance Minister to direct the Reserve Bank of India to send instructions to all commercial banks functioning in Orissa in this regard.

12.20 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

(v) Need to take steps to ensure compliance of direction issued in regard to appointment of SC and ST candidates to various Government posts.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reservation provided for scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes in various services under the Constitution as also directions of the