

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

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377- Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up Matters under Rule 377.

(iii) **Need to convert metre gauge railway line from Londa to Vasco-de-Gama into broad gauge**

SHRI SHANTARM NAIK (Panaji) : Although there has been a tremendous improvement since the liberation of Goa on 19th December 1961 in the road, air and sea transport for the convenience of the people coming to and going out of Goa, yet the rail transport refuses to move out of the bullock cart age.

The strategic importance of Goa on the west coast of India, inflow of annual tourist, both national and international, up-coming of Navy Project in the nearby Karwar, movement of industrial goods of the new industrial units in the State do not appear to have weighed in the minds of all those in the Railway Ministry in the matter of long-standing demand, of not only Goan people but virtually of the entire country to provide a broad gauge line from Londa to Vasco-de-Gama.

Two years back, during one of his visits to Goa, the Prime Minister realising the importance of the matter had assured to consider the same to the utter joy and jubilation of the Goan people. It is only since then that some moves are being made. But the Railway Ministry is sticking to the narrow approach and the assurance remains on paper. It is feared that people's hope may not be fulfilled.

I, therefore, demand the conversion of metre gauge rail line from Londa to Vasco-de-Gama into broad-gauge.

(iv) **Need to appoint a Committee of Members of Parliament to enquire into the reasons for disregarding the judgement of Supreme Court for reducing the prices of drugs**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Sir, the Supreme Court, in its historic judgement delivered on 10th April, 1987, gave the Department of Chemicals a time of two months and 14 days to dispose of representations of drug companies involved and pass final orders. No action was taken within the stipulated period, i. e., upto 25th June, 1987.

The Department has not reduced the prices of medicines in question, despite the judgement of Supreme Court. The consumer did not get benefit of price control for seven years due to litigation and now even after the judgement, the consumer is being charged higher price. Besides fixing of prices, and their implementation, the question of recovery into Drugs Prices Equalisation Account is involved. The amount involved is about Rs. 200 crores in these cases alone. No step has been taken to fix responsibility for the disregard shown to the court judgement and the hardship being caused to the consumer. I, therefore, request that a committee of Members of Parliament be constituted to go into the whole affair and fix responsibility.

(v) **Demand for appointing a Committee of Members of Parliament to look into the question of decontrol of Prices of certain iron based formulations used to prevent nutritional anaemia**

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, iron preparations are used as prophylaxis to prevent nutritional anaemia among poor pregnant women, children and infants.

Iron preparations are mostly the monopolised production of a few drug companies. Almost all the major selling iron products have been price-decontrolled and are being marketed under brands having turnover of Rs. one crore to Rs. twelve crores. With