

Recently LPG dealers had gone on strike in connection with supplying gas filled cylinders in place of empty cylinders to the consumers.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

One of the reasons, along with other demands, for the strike was that they wanted to do away with the home delivery system. The difficulty to the consumers as a result of stopping home delivery of cylinders can very well be guessed. Whenever the Government does some work, it does with the main intention of providing the maximum facility to the common man. That is why the system of supplying gas cylinders to the consumers by the dealers at different places was started and now the situation is such that the dealers are resorting to strike to do away with that very system. This makes it very clear that they want to defeat the very purpose of the Government. I can understand the difficulty of the dealers. They are dealing with the connections upto 10 to 15 thousands. The consumers have to be supplied with the filled cylinders in place of empty cylinders within one month. With their limited resources, they are unable to meet the demands of the consumers and this is the reason that in the entire country, the filled cylinders are supplied with delay to the consumers. This is a common complaint. Therefore, I suggest that every dealer should be given one thousand connections only so that they are able to serve the consumers properly. With this arrangement, many more unemployed persons will be able to get work. This will also help in fulfilling the purpose of the Government to provide facility to the common man.

(vii) Need to provide stoppage of Chetak Express Train at Harsauli railway station in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Sir, Harsauli is an important railway station on Delhi-Ahmedabad metre-gauge railway line. It is located in district Alwar, Rajasthan State. Harsauli is a commercial town. There are regular passenger bus services from Harsauli to Kot-Kasim and Harsauli to Mandawar and Behore. Growth of passenger

traffic is very high at Harsauli station booking office. For passengers going to Jaipur from Harsauli railway station, a train service from one p. m. to 12 O'clock in the night is not available at all and after 3 p.m. no train service is available for the passengers going to Delhi.

Thus, passengers are facing great difficulties for undertaking their journeys from Harsauli to Jaipur and to Delhi. Residents of that region comprising of at least one hundred villages, have been regularly demanding for stoppage of Chetak Express train for two minutes only at Harsauli railway station. I feel that the demand is fully justified.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Transport to order stoppage of Chetak Express train for two minutes only at Harsauli railway station.

(viii) Need to increase the number of direct trains from metropolitan cities to Kerala.

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram): Sir, with the coming of summer season and starting of vacations, the railways have to cope with heavy rush. The problem of getting reservation is as acute as ever. This is particularly so in the south-bound trains, especially the trains bound for Kerala. Lakhs of Keralites working in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and other major cities in the north, visit their native place during this season. One has to plan his journey and reserve tickets many months in advance and often times one is put in the waiting list. One cannot undertake a long journey with his family in such a state of uncertainty. This situation breeds corruption and the Government has not been able to root it out.

The only remedy lies in increasing the number of direct trains from the metropolitan cities to Kerala. At present there is only one direct train from Bombay to Kerala. There has been persistent demand from people for the introduction of one more train like the present Jayanti Janata between Bombay and Kerala. Bombay has perhaps the largest Malayalee population outside Kerala, and, therefore, the problems being faced by them in the matter of reservation, etc. are very serious. Similarly, even with three trains the