

13.08 hrs.

**MOTION RE : JOINT COMMITTEE  
ON LOKPAL BILL**

[English]

**SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) :** I beg to move :

“That this House do appoint Shri Ajit Kumar Saha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith, *vice* Shri Amal Datta resigned.”

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The question is :

“That this House do appoint Shri Ajit Kumar Saha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith, *vice* Shri Amal Datta resigned.”

*The motion was adopted.*

13.10 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[Translation]

- (i) Need to ensure early payment of Pension, Provident Fund etc. to the pensioners and take stern action against employees responsible for causing delay in such payments

**SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is sad that the condition of Government employees becomes pitiable when they do not get pension and provident fund—which are their own savings—immediately after retirement. They have to run from pillar to post for years to get that amount. Sometimes, the poor pensioner dies because of this harassment. As a result, neither he nor his family gets the pension or provident fund.

The only reason for this negligence and unsympathetic attitude of the officials of the concerned department towards their work and pensioners. All this is going on in spite of the clear cut instructions of the Government that the pensioners should get pension and all other facilities as soon as they retire and the payments should be finalised six months in advance.

I, therefore, request the Government to take stern action against indifferent officers and staff of the departments who are responsible for such delays so that such cases are not delayed at all and this nation-wide problem is solved.

- (ii) Need to open Navodaya Schools in Pithoragarh and Almora Districts of Uttar Pradesh

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision of the Government to open Navodaya schools in every district is a commendable one, but while doing so, priority has not been given to the tribal, border and backward areas, and particularly to those districts which have been classified as such by the Planning Commission. This is a big blunder on the part of Ministry of Human Resources Development, which should be immediately rectified. The hill areas of Uttar Pradesh which have been treated as classified areas by the Planning Commission have not been included by the State Government in the list of districts which has been sent to the Central Government for opening the proposed Navodaya Schools. The border districts of Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Uttar Kashi and Tehri Garhwal, which are predominantly tribal areas have also not been included in that list by the State Government.

This disparity should be removed and Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh should be included in the proposed scheme of opening Navodaya Schools this year.

[English]

- (iii) Need to connect various important places in Orissa by Vayudoot Service

**SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) :** Vayudoot Service is available in many

States of the Country. It is yet to be introduced in Orissa, in a regular manner. If there is any State in the country, which needs the introduction of this service very urgently, it is Orissa, since this State is not inter-connected by the Railways. East and West Orissa, North and South Orissa, remains unconnected by Air. The important centers like Rourkela, Bhubaneswar Naval Centre Chilka and HAL Township Sunabada, Gopalpur-on-Sea are not directly inter-connected by train services.

One has to take arduous journey across many States to reach these destinations, which involves lot of time and expenditure. Puri is a place of Pilgrimage. Puri, Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Jeyapur, Sunabada, Jagadapur (Madhya Pradesh) should be connected by Vayudoot service.

Jamshedpur, Rourkela and Bhilai need to be immediately connected by Vayudoot service for providing steel plants quick transport. Port to Port Vayudoot service is also a necessity. Haldia Paradip, Gopalpur-on-Sea and Visakhapatnam also need to be connected by Vayudoot.

(iv) **Need to withdraw the latest rules regarding cancellation charges for railway tickets**

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane) : It is learnt that the Railway Board with effect from January, 1986 has steeply revised the cancellation charges for tickets. As per the latest cancellation rules, which have not been publicly notified or published, obviously fearing public resentment, a second-class ticket holder has to suffer to the extent of 50 per cent of the value of the ticket as cancellation charges, even if the ticket is cancelled two full days in advance of the scheduled departure of the train. This unprecedented and unwarranted rise has added an extra burden on the already harassed commuters.

Nobody cancels a confirmed reservation unless it becomes absolutely essential.

Further, the general public is of the view that it has added to the rampant corruption. Due to the heavy cancellation charges, people are lured by agents to part with their confirmed reservation tickets at almost the same cost. Such tickets are

then sold to last minute travellers at a handsome premium.

I therefore, request the Government to look into this and withdraw the latest cancellation rules immediately.

(v) **Need to ensure equal wages for equal work for men and women engaged in tea gardens in Assam and other parts to the country**

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : Sir, in certain tea gardens of Assam, men and women workers do not get equal wages for equal work.

It is not only in Assam but also in other parts of India that this practice may exist.

The Government of India should institute an enquiry to find out the position in different parts of India and take proper action immediately.

(vi) **Need to take drastic steps to augment the supply to articles of daily necessities in cities like Bombay**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Food articles such as grains, edible oils, vanaspati, sugar and condiments have registered a sharp rise in prices in the past few weeks, particularly in cities like Bombay. The price rise is more in the retail than in the wholesale markets. Vegetables in particular have gone beyond the reach of the common man and are being sold at record high levels. I urge upon the Food and Civil Supplies Minister to take drastic steps to augment the supplies of daily necessities and to strengthen and encourage the consumers' bodies. The Government may also take stern steps against the traders for undue profiteering.

13.18 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(vii) **Need to adopt necessary measures to prevent leakage of chlorine gas in Orient Paper Mills, Brajrajnagar in Orissa**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, there has been a serious accident of leakage of chlorine gas in the