

[Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah]

I have already said that several State Governments have set up manpower corporations to regulate, mobilise and rationalise the thing. That is why, we thought that at the central level, we need not have another manpower corporation. We want to see that the monitoring and coordination is done in such a manner that the people are not exploited by unscrupulous elements. I assure the hon. Member on that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House now adjourns for lunch and will meet again at 2.20.

13.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) NEED FOR ADEQUATE TRAIN SERVICES FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF KERALA.

SHRI V. S. VJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Under Rule 377 I make the following statement:

Rail facilities are quite inadequate in the northern parts of Kerala. Thousands of people from these areas are travelling to Bombay, Delhi and other Major cities every day. In the absence of any direct train, these passengers are facing a lot of difficulties. In spite of repeated representations for improved rail facilities, Malabar continues to be neglected.

Recently, the Railway Board took a decision to attach 7 through coaches to Delhi and 2 to Bombay to the newly introduced Mangalore-Palghat link Express from 1-10-1982. This was widely welcomed by the public. But, strangely, the Board cancelled its decisions at the last minute. This has caused a considerable amount of resentment among the people of North Kerala, who have a long stand-

ing grievance that they are being neglected by the Railways. Through coaches to Delhi and Bombay would have provided some relief to the people of this areas. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Minister for Railways to take the following steps to solve the problems of the travelling public in North Kerala:—

(1) Introduce through coaches to Delhi and Bombay as was decided earlier by the Railway Board.

(2) Extend the newly introduced Mangalore-Palghat Link Express to Coimbatore.

(3) Construct a platform at Shoranur junction on the link line.

(ii) MEASURES TO CONTROL LEPROSY

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA (Kalahandi): Under Rule 377 I make the following statement:

The dreaded disease of leprosy is spreading with a menacing speed in Orissa. It has particularly struck a large number of tribal villages as well as coastal areas. According to an estimate, 15 lepers for every 1000 population are residing in Orissa. The number of such lepers is increasing further in Bolangir, Sambalpur, Kalahandi and some coastal districts also.

One of the major reasons for the widespread disease is the graphite content of water from springs which is sole source of drinking water in the hilly areas. A large number of lepers die every year and new lepers come in their place in Puri district.

Unless immediate measures are taken to control the leprosy the situation may be further aggravated. Therefore, Government of India should pay special attention to check spreading of this dangerous disease. Anti-leprosy programme should be implemented more vigorously. State Government, Central Government and voluntary organisations should take keen interest to control the disease. Leprosy rehabilitation colonies should be set up without delay. Adequate measures should be taken to provide proper treatment to the lepers.