

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate] :

Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Ministry of Railways would be set up to run the line and the cost of construction and running the broad gauge line would be shared equally by the Central Government and the State Government. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have so far contributed Rs. 2.15 crores towards the cost of construction of the line. They have, however, expressed their inability to contribute more funds for the this project. It may be recalled that in the case of Howrah-Amta, Howrah-Sheakhala and Jakhapura-Banspani lines, which were also taken up on the basis that 50% of their cost of construction would be contributed by the respective State Governments, a revised financial arrangement has already been agreed to under which the State Governments will only provide land for these projects. On the same basis, Government have decided that the Ministry of Railways will bear the cost of the project, and the amount of Rs. 2.15 crores already contributed by the State Government will be appropriated towards the cost of land and wooden sleepers for the project. The idea of forming a joint Corporation for running the Railway line has also been dropped and the line, when completed, will be operated as part of the Northern Railway system. I am taking this opportunity to inform the House of the change in the arrangement.

14.12 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) MEETING OF ADVISORY COUNCIL ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF LAKSHADWEEP

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious matter of urgent public importance taking place in my constituency, the union territory of Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep is one of the union territories where no democratic institution is functioning. There are two advisory bodies nominated by the President of India, one associated with the Administrator of the union territory and the other associated with the Union Home Minister. I have been privileged to represent Lakshadweep in this august House since 1967.

Now, the Advisory Council is scheduled to meet today at Karvati, the headquarters of Lakshadweep. In

this connection, I would like to draw your kind attention and, through you, Sir, of the House to the convention which has been followed by your distinguished predecessor on a similar occasion. It was Shri C. M. Stephen, my esteemed colleague, who raised the question of such meetings being called outside Delhi in which the Members of this House and the other House are their members while the Parliament session was going on. Your distinguished predecessor followed the procedure that any such meeting in which the Members of this House and the other House are its members which is to take place outside Delhi should not be held while the Lok Sabha session is going on.

I have received a wire in this connection regarding the meeting of the Advisory Council scheduled to be held today at Karvati on 26th which intimates me to proceed to Cochin on 27th itself and from there, by ship, to Karvati. The moment I received the telegram, I met the hon. Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh, and informed him about this matter. He has assured me that the matter will be locked into on that day, that is on the 26th evening. I received a call from the Home Ministry stating that the meeting is likely to be postponed. Now, I am informed that the meeting is scheduled to be held as per the old programme, that is today itself. Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I seek your indulgence and through you request the Home Minister to make a statement on this issue informing the real position and also to reaffirm to this House the convention already laid down by your distinguished predecessor. Therefore, I request the Home Minister through you to make a statement in this regard.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil) : On a point of order. This is a matter about which every Member is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are not having a discussion.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : We are members of different boards. This is a point on which you have to.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I allowed it to be raised under 377 and now he has raised it.