

their essential requirements of steam coal the railways have had to reduce their own consumption. To achieve this in a planned manner, the railways have curtailed departmental and shunting services and also undertaken temporary suspension of some short distance less intensively used passenger trains.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the number?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: On Sakri-Madhubani-Jaynagar section six pairs of passenger trains are scheduled to run. For want of coal, one pair of trains had been cancelled in November, 1973. One 22-2-74, the position of coal stock on NE Railway as a whole dropped to the lowest level i.e. 0.7 days and at Samastipur and Darbhanga Sheds, which feed these services of this section, had a stock of 0.4 days and 0.1 days respectively. This extremely low position of coal stock at Darbhanga Shed compelled the Railway to cancel the remaining 5 pairs of trains on and from 23rd February 1974. As coal position improved with receipt of one rake of coal at Samastipur on 23rd February 1974 evening, one train No. 327 was run from Samastipur on the evening of 24th February 1974. Three trains were restored on 25th February 1974 after the requisite share of the Samastipur rake of coal was transhipped and reached Darbhanga. On 27th February 1974, one more train viz., 41/42 Janaki Express was restored.

These cancellations were incidental and had no connection with the election.

As and when the availability of steam coal improves and Railways build up the requisite steam coal stock in sheds, the cut in train services will be restored in a phased manner.

12.50 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE THIRTY-SEVENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 27th February, 1974."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 27th February 1974."

The motion was adopted

12.51 hrs.

RE: MATTER UNDER RULE 377

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Madhu Limaye. He is not here. I just want to make this point clear. I had allowed Shri Madhu Limaye to raise this question about the resignation of certain Members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I am told that the Chief Minister is already stepping down.

MR. SPEAKER: No this is not a question of stepping down. It is something else. Now, I thought that when he speaks I would have the opportunity to make the matter clear.

Sometime back I read it in the papers that the Speaker of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly had indicated that he wanted to consult me on certain matters concerning the resignations. I just read it in the papers.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): I showed it to you long ago.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; later on he wrote to me that he will be coming to consult me.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: When, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Then the Secretary of Congress-O, my old friend Mr. Manubhai Patel met me. He was an hon. Member of the last Lok Sabha and an old friend of mine. He met me; he wrote to me. I wrote to him that normally the Speakers meet in the 'Presiding Officers' Conference and they can discuss about the procedures. But so far as this matter of the resignation is concerned, the Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly neither telephoned to me, nor met me. I had been expecting him—Mr. Patel and I told him that if he had met me, I would have advised him on the right lines. But normally, it is very embarrassing for the Speaker of the Lok Sabha when such things are stated in the Press, as if they are seeking my instructions. I am the last person to issue any instructions on such matters or give any guidance. They are purely within the State Speakers' jurisdiction and the rules are laid down on it; they are very clear rules. And, if he had met me, I would have just invited his attention to the rules. I am very lucky that he did not meet me. Otherwise perhaps, if he had taken any action on the matter, which may not have been pleasing to you, that would have been attributed to me, as to what had transpired between us! So, I am very happy that this is a good coincidence. I am going to advise our Speakers that on such matters, when the rules are very clear, I should not be involved in that.

But Mr. Madhu Limaye is not there. I do not know what he would have chosen to say on this matter. I have given my indication as to what I would have replied if I had been consulted.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Is the Assembly Speaker obliged to get instructions like that?

MR. SPEAKER: Who am I to give these instructions? Of course, we do consult each other about our mutual problems—about the troubles you create! They come to Delhi sometimes to consult me or telephone or

write to me. We also meet once in a year to discuss problems on which we are not able to have certain clarifications and interpretations. But they are very harmless as well as important matters. This is a matter over which I need not advise him. If you send your resignation, I would not seek anybody else's advice!

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The matter has been referred to the Gujarat High Court.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not take a second to accept the resignation!

Now, coming to the business, there only a very short time left—2 hours and 35 minutes—out of which the Prime Minister or the Minister concerned would take some time to reply. How much time would the Prime Minister like to take?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): The Prime Minister will reply to morrow.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very happy to hear this, because there are so many Members who are still on the waiting list.

If you want her to speak before the Election come, I can hear her just now I think you should have enough time to discuss this.

So, we adjourn now for Lunch to reassemble at 2 P.M.

12.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENTS ADDRESS—Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Further consideration of the following Motion moved by Shri B. K. Daschowdhury