

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Only one minute, Madam. Therefore, Madam, I would like to request the Government through you to reconsider the decision which has already been taken and annex this line with the Madurai Division. Even though the Government claims that it has opened a new line, this is only a small project between Karur and Dindigul. What about the line from Dindigul to Madurai? Nothing has been done. ... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Please sit down. Now, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY. What about the line from Madurai to Maniyachi? Nothing has been done. They only want to hoodwink the people of Tamil Nadu and it is only for some political purpose that they have gone to inaugurate the function there as if they have done something great for the people of Tamil Nadu. After eight years, they have constructed a small project to be opened by the Prime Minister!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Kulkarni.

Appeal by the Government of Kerala in a Newspaper Abroad for Donations for the Relief of Victims of the Railway Accident near Quilon

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam, I thank you very much for permitting me to make a Special Mention which is in connection with a statement and an appeal issued by Mr. E. K. Nayanar, the Chief Minister of Kerala.

Madam, the purpose of the appeal is to help the victims of the tragedy, the railway accident, and there is no dispute about it. But the problem is that it is detrimental to the Centre-State relations, particularly when our friends in the Opposition complain about the Government not following the recommendations of the Sarkaria

Commission. Madam, for your information, I quote only two paragraphs. According to Mr. Oommen Chandy who is the Deputy Leader of the Congress Legislature Party:

"Moreover, the appeal said that money was required to ensure the 'safety' of the rail travel in the

I do not understand when Mr. Nayanar thought that Kerala is not a part of India? Is it not a part of the Railway Ministry of the Government of India which looks after all these difficulties? It does not become a Chief Minister to make such an appeal to the Gulf workers. Many Keralites are working there.

Second, there is also another very important point highlighted by Mr. Karunakaran, leader of the Congress party in the Kerala Legislature. He wondered if the necessary clearance of the Union Home Ministry had been obtained for collecting funds from a foreign country and other rules had been observed. Madam, they have also given certain telephone numbers of the Gulf merchants and the money has to be sent to the Commissioner and Secretary, Finance Department, Government Secretariat. This is totally flouting the RBI regulations about the receipt of foreign money. It is the Home Ministry which has to give permission to any State Government or any organisation to bring in foreign funds. Mr. Karunakaran further stated, Madam—I quote, again:

"It had to be made clear whether the agents in Kuwait whose telephone numbers were given could collect them on behalf of the Government."

This is one question.

Then, Madam, one Mr. Aryada a Mohammed, MLA, who was present at the press conference, pointed out that under Section 4 of the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act, members of State legislatures and the

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni] Parliament, political parties and Government officials were barred from accepting donations from abroad. (Time bellings)

I would like to point out that this is totally flouting the regulations and rules of the Reserve Bank of India and no permission was also obtained from the Home Ministry. Will the Government, therefore, take disciplinary action against the Chief Minister or the Government of Kerala, since they are deliberately flouting the rules.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Madam, this is a... (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please sit down. The Leader of the Opposition is here.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record. He is not *allowed*.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I fully associate myself with the views expressed by my learned colleague, Kulkarniji. This matter was raised on the floor of the Kerala Assembly on the 5th of August. And my hon. friend, Mr. Balaram, does not know about it. He is < filing this as a false statement.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM. Reply was also given.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: But why do you say that this is a false statement? I am sorry that the Kerala Chief Minister, without consulting the Government of India either in the Finance Ministry or in the Home Ministry or the Reserve Bank of India, issued such an appeal which was published by way of an advertisement in the 'Kuwait Times' of the 3rd August. This appeal was made for raising donations from those people who were living in foreign countries

for assisting the victims of the railway tragedy. Madam, under the rules, without the prior approval of the Home Ministry, not even a charitable institution can raise foreign funds like this. No one can raise these foreign funds under the rules. Shortcircuiting the whole procedure, the Chief Minister issued this appeal which, in my humble opinion, has lowered the prestige of the country in the eyes of the foreign people. From that advertisement, they might have come to the conclusion that the Government of India or the people of India are not competent or able to render assistance to the victims of this tragedy. Madam, Rs. 30 lakhs have already been released by the Prime Minister for assistance to be given to the victims. Rs. 1 lakh per victim have already been promised or assured by the Railway Minister. The Kerala Government has given just a paltry sum of Rs. 5000/- to each victim. So, much more has been done by the Centre. Now, they have issued an appeal for raising donations in a foreign country and in a foreign newspaper. Madam, through you, I request the Government of India to make a thorough probe into this matter and to obtain the necessary explanation from the Chief Minister of Kerala for the irregularity committed by him. It must also be found out how much money has been collected and by whom. Madam, it should be ensured that such incidents don't occur in future.

Proposal to Hand Over Bharat Electronics Limited Project at Taloja near Bombay to the Private Sector

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, वह यह है कि सरकार सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में लगे हुए उद्योग भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक लिमिटेड, बम्बई की एक यूनिट महाराष्ट्र

*Not recorded.