

population, which is not available at present. The next census which will be taken in 2011 is far away. I, therefore, propose that a special census of these tribes may be carried out in the State so that seats in the Assembly can be reserved for Limboo and Tamang. In the meanwhile, I also urge upon the Government to move a legislation in the Parliament to increase the number of seats from 32 to 40 as a special case. Thank you.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri O.T. Lepcha.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri O.T. Lepcha.

**Need to redress the grievances of the Loco running staff of
Indian Railways**

SHRI N. BALAGANGA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Railway Ministry to the grievances of loco running staff of Indian Railways. They have staged almost all the trade unions but in vain. Their demands are: (1) reduce the duty hours at a stretch to eight hours for loco running staff, train driver; (2) upgrade the grade pay of assistant loco pilot to Rs.2800; (3) distinct grade pay for different categories of loco pilots; (4) revised running allowance according to RAC-80 formula.

The duty hours, at a stretch, of loco running staff is an issue from the inception of the Railways. Many Commissions such as Justice Rajadhyaksha Committee, Railway Labours Tribunal of 1969, etc. submitted their recommendations. Now, the duty hours of loco running staff is 13 hours. They are not demanding reduction of duty hours per week which stands at 52 hours. They request that a stretch of duty should not go beyond eight hours a day. The Assistant Loco Pilots are recruited through Recruitment Board. Their responsibility is to run the train safely and punctually. They are paid grade pay of Rs.1900 which is Rs.100 more than the lowest class of Government employee. This grievance is to be redressed soon. The loco pilots are working in goods, passenger, mail and superfast trains. Motormen have distinct responsibility and require different skill. They all are being paid one and the same grade pay of Rs.4200. I sincerely urge upon the Government to persuade the Railway Ministry to settle the long pending demands. Thank you.

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri N. Balaganga.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri N. Balaganga.

**Need to have consensus at national level before making any law regarding
homosexuality in the country**

डा० राम प्रकाश (हरियाणा) : महोदय, स्त्री पुरुष का ही मेल प्रकृति की स्वीकृति है। अप्राकृतिक यौनाचार सृष्टि और समाज के लिए घातक है। आई०पी०सी० की धारा 377 का संशोधन अनावश्यक है क्योंकि हमारी संस्कृति, विरासत और जीवन-दर्शन, पश्चिम की सोच और दर्शन से भिन्न है। अतः यहां की