

Ministry of Planning for 1990-91. [Placed in Library See No. LT-750/90]

12.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE - 377

[*Translation*]

(i) **Need to provide Doordarshan facilities in backward areas of Shimla, Sirmaur and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Doordarshan network is not working effectively in the hilly regions of Himachal Pradesh. The benefit of programme of installation of transmission towers by the Central Government has not reached the T.V. listeners and viewers so far in Himachal Pradesh. The Central Government has sanctioned the installation of a T.V. tower at a place called Khanda Pathar in District Shimla. Besides, Dajlas is another place in District Kullu where the installation of a T.V. tower can sufficiently facilitate the telecast of Doordarshan programmes but the Government has paid no attention towards this so far. I have raised my voice in the House many times for providing T.V. facilities in this backward State. The previous Government had inaugurated a T.V. studio in Shimla which is yet to start functioning. I urge the Government of India to provide adequate Doordarshan facilities in the backward areas of Districts of Shimla, Sirmaur and Kullu. I hope the Government will take necessary steps in this direction and benefit the people of Himachal Pradesh.

(ii) **Need to improved the telecommunication System in Arunachal Pradesh**

[*English*]

SHRI LEETA UMBREY (Arunachal East): Sir, due to non-availability of adequate and proper surface transport facilities,

the people of Arunachal Pradesh have to depend much on the telecommunication facilities. But the present services rendered by the Department are not upto the expectations of the people. The messages from one place to another in the State reach their destination after a period of more than 10 days, whereas an ordinary letter from far west India takes 7 days at the most to reach Arunachal Pradesh. So, the whole system needs immediate revamping, to win the confidence of the people in the Department.

[*Translation*]

(iii) **Need for permanent solution of the drinking water problem of Rajasthan State**

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the following matter under Rule 377.

Rajasthan is the only State of India where, leave aside irrigation, people are crying for want of drinking water even after 43 years of Independence. Even after spending crores of rupees on fighting drought and providing drinking water in Rajasthan 18 thousand villages out of 33000 are without drinking water facilities and the residents have to fetch water from a distance of 1 to 15 kilometres. Conservation of rain-water in tanks and its subsequent use has become a part of their life. Not only the villagers of Rajasthan but even people of big cities like Udaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Beawar etc. get water supply for just half-an-hour or one hour in three days. 40 per cent of land is covered by the Thar desert where there is no water. This acute shortage can be met only by immediately implementing the Narmada, Yamuna, Ganga and Indira Canal, Bilaspur, Mansi Vakal, Sidramukh and Noher projects. The Central Government and the Rajasthan Government spends crores of rupees every year to supplement the needs of drinking water and on drought relief. Had this money been used for a permanent solution of these problems, it would have been accomplished by now. The future plans in this