

No appropriate action has been taken till date to connect all important cities of Rajasthan with cellular telephone facility. Therefore, I would like to request to consider this matter on priority basis.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA):
The following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Need to introduce Bill on merger of 9 hilly districts and holy place Haridwar to make a separate state of Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh during this session as per decision of the Central Government.
2. Need to punish the guilty persons by conducting a judicial inquiry into the incident occurred on 26.7.97 in Ranikhet cantonment of Uttar Pradesh where soldiers of Army equipped with arms illegally demolished the school building in civil area without permission.

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

The essential commodities have been affected due to smuggling of foodgrains in large scale in West Bengal. The discussion on crisis arising out of this situation may be held in next week.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (SAMASTIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make the following two suggestions with your kind permission to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to include in next week's agenda:-

1. The potatoes in Bihar have been spoiled due to lack of appropriate arrangement for their storage and marketing. The Government should have made arrangement for this and also provide relief to the farmers.
2. The provision had been made in the last Railway Budget to construct a Diesel shed in Samastipur for which a foundation stone was also laid but work has not been commenced yet. The Minister of Railway is requested to start this work.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The factory is on the verge of closure due to non-receipt of work order (berth orders) from the Ministry of Railways and Coal. It has affected fifteen thousand employees and lakhs of families. The case of revision of pay scale is also pending for many years. The people of displaced families are not even getting employment. Hence, inquiry should be conducted through a committee constituted by the House.
2. Power and water supply is interrupted for 10-12 hours in Ranchi resulting into repeated agitations.

Electricity lines and water pipes have been damaged due to lack of their repair the electricity and water is not being supplied properly. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to take action immediately.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

The economic price of Food Corporation of India is increasing continuously. Pusa - 44 variety of rice is kept in fine category in Punjab while this quality comes under super fine category in Haryana. Therefore, action may be taken for making comprehensive reform in the existing formal and working procedure of Food Corporation of India.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (CHANDNI CHOWK-DELHI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. It is proposed to close down thousands of small scale industries recently in the National Capital Territory of Delhi on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court due to which many workers would become unemployed and come to the verge of starvation. The matter with regard to provide means of employment to these workers and to rehabilitate them may be taken up.
2. The matter regarding setting up of a "Vikas Board" by Central Government to make available essential basic facilities to the people living in slum katras of "Old Delhi" area in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and to get the development works done there.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India.
- (2) Need to take steps to provide jobs to the persons whose applications are pending for a long time on compassionate ground.

[English]

12.26 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTEENTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I
beg to move the following:-

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

The motion was adopted

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (TRIPURA EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one M.L.A. was kidnapped in Tripura.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have not yet started Zero Hour. You may be given permission during Zero Hour. Please take your seat now.

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL *

12.27 hrs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMERS AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : * *Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion Moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

Shri Shyam Behari Mishra. You have given notice, but you have not given the reason for opposing the introduction of this Bill. Anyway, I permit you to make a short statement. Please note 'short', because I give you permission even though you have not fulfilled the condition.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is in force in this country. For controlling the traders the Licensing orders, Consumers Protection Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 are in force. This Act was enacted only for five years because at that time there were drought conditions in the country. There was shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities. Today foodgrains are in abundance in the country. Foodgrains are being exported from the country. In such a situation the traders are being harassed. This legislation is increasing corruption and the officers are getting money illegally by harassing these traders. If such type of rule prevails

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in the country as is in Bihar, then I can say nothing otherwise this law should be withdrawn. Therefore, moving the motion to extend if further is not at all required. Hence this motion should be withdrawn.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No notices have been given. Therefore, I do not allow anybody.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given one concession to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the special provisions of the Essential Commodities Act were enforced in 1982 because of shortage of foodgrains in the country and to save consumer from difficulties and injustice. Just to save them from difficulties the Parliament enforced it for five years from 1982 to 1987 at first instance. In 1987 people felt that this law should not be withdrawn, it should remain in force. Then it was extended from 1987 to 1992. In 1992, the Members of Parliament felt that it should remain in force then it was extended for the year 1997. Now, the period of extension has been completed. Again this department.....(Interruptions) kindly listen.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): It has been extended again and again....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to the Minister. It is not proper. Listen to him. Look I have already given concession.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: I request the hon. Members kindly to listen.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you please continue. Let them not listen. You please tell us.

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: The standing committee of this Department, has also recommended that this should be extended for another five years and it should be continued. We have asked for the assent of all the states. Almost all the states have agreed to extend it. In this situation the feelings of hon. Members is that injustice should not be done to them. Therefore, we have also made a provision for amendment in it. Firstly, the collector can confiscate this. There was a scope for appeal in the State Government. Now the hon. Members have demanded to make it justifiable. We are amending this law to make it justifiable. There is a provision to go to judiciary because the hon. Member has a doubt that corruption could prevail there and to eliminate it a provision should be made in it. Therefore, I request that leave may be granted to introduce this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special