

13.40 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to increase the grant being given for development of Hill areas in U.P. under the special Central Assistance Scheme.**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, keeping in view the difficult terrain of the hill areas, the Central Government had started special central economic Assistance for the development works of these areas under various plans after the Fifth Five Year Plan in order to ensure balanced and speedy development of these areas. At the outset a decision was taken to bring the special central Assistance for the hill areas of U.P. to bring the special Central Assistance for the hill areas of U.P. known as 'Uttaranchal' at par with the special central Assistance for Himachal Pradesh because of similarity in their terrain and geographical position as well equality in population. But with the passage of time, the assistance for Himachal Pradesh increased to Rs.300 crores and the assistance for the Uttaranchal area of U.P. remained a paltry Rs.205 crores. As per the 1990 census figures, the population of Uttaranchal is 69 lakhs whereas the population of Himachal Pradesh is 51 lakhs.

The special Central Assistance granted to Uttaranchal for the development of hill areas is relatively for less in spite of equal area and more population. I would, therefore, request the Government to sanction a sum of Rs. 350 crores for Uttaranchal in the form of Special Central Assistance for the development of hill areas.

- (ii) **Need for early commissioning of Barmer and Jaisalmer T.V. Towers**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : A high power TV tower has been constructed at the top of village Chohtan (Barmer) about three years back at an approximate cost of Rs. 30 crore. At this TV tower, all the sophisticated equipment have also arrived. This TV tower is meant to give coverage to backward and border desert district, Barmer.

Similarly, another high power TV tower has been constructed at adjoining district Jaisalmer. The work has been completed at an approximate cost of Rs.25 crore.

Both these TV towers were completed on a war footing in sensitive districts. In spite of agitation by local people and numerous representations to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for early commissioning of these TV towers, nothing has been done so far.

It is believed that the staff has not yet been sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance. Due to non-availability of Staff and non-interaction between the Ministries, two high-power TV tower in backward area have not been commissioned. The expenditure to the tune of Rs.55 crore is being wasted and equipment are allowed to rust just for want of staff.

I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to intervene in the matter at the earliest.

13.44 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu *in the Chair*)

- (iii) **Need to waive agricultural loan taken up to 1989 by farmers in Bihar**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Sir, in 1989 a policy was formulated to waive loans below Rs.10,000 in order to provide relief to the farmers reeling under debt. Most of the farmers had benefited from this policy during Janata Dal regime but the farmers of some of the Blocks in Bihar could not benefit from this scheme. The financial institutions realised all the loans with interest thereon and even threatened confiscation of their immovable property. The farmers were forced to borrow from the market even at higher rate of interest in order to escape confiscation.

I would, therefore, request the Government to announce waiving of loans upto Rs.10,000 upto 1989 in the general interest of the farmers.

- (iv) **Need to provide telephone facilities in all the blocks of Banda district, U.P.**

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Sir, S.T.D. facility has not been provided in Karga, Tindwari, Bhatons, Chilla, Jaspura, Paisani of the Development Block, Vadokhen Khurd under Tindwari Vidhan Sabha constituency which is causing hardship to thousands of people. It is the policy of the Government to link each village panchayat with telephone facility, but it is not available in all the villages of the above mentioned development blocks. I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide telephone facility in every Village and S.T.D. facility in Jaspura, Chilla, Tindwari, Bhatons at the earliest.

- (v) **Need to ensure payment to sugarcane growers and employment to the local people in village Mathura in Orissa.**

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to raise a serious problem of the sugar cane growers of my constituency, that is, Kalahandi.