

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yesterday we sought your permission to come to the well in case the Railway Minister does not give up a satisfactory reply on the question of re-employment of 600 people .. (*Interruptions*). Otherwise, the Railway Minister should give us an assurance .. (*Interruptions*) Will you protect us today? We request for your protection.

(*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHARJEE (Panskura) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to see in the newspaper that the Hon. Minister for Communications has announced that he will install one long-distance telephone line in every village in the next three years. Laudable idea indeed.

But, may I draw his attention through you that Panskura (my Constituency headquarters in the district of Midnapore) could never be contacted by me or by any one else with the installation of the telephone. It can hardly be connected with even the district headquarters Midnapore. Same is the situation with Kolaghat, where there is even a thermal power station and the same applies to Tam-luk, the Sub-divisional headquarters of Midnapore district.

May I expect that the Hon. Minister will pay heed to these things and try to rectify the position. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is drought and shortage of electricity in

Bihar. The farmers are facing a lot of difficulties due to the non-availability of water in the canals. Out of the 485 tubewells installed in Bhojpur and Buxar districts, 400 are out of order. The Bihar Government does not have funds to get them repaired. I request the Central Government to provide a sum of Rs. 4 crore and 85 lakhs to the State Government to construct the grid in Jagdishpur so that adequate supply of electricity could be made. More funds should be provided to the State Government for repairing the 400 tubewells so that the drought situation can be dealt with.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a big and vast country. The people here are always in distress and are ruined due to drought or floods. This year the entire Bihar state is facing drought situation. Paddy seeds have not yet been sown and wherever they have been sown they are drying up. The prevailing red tapism in the state is the main hurdle to tackle drought situation effectively. If there had been actual democracy the government officials would have understood the problems of the public. In Jahanabad constituency the Government has installed a number of tubewells, but all these are lying out of order. There is enough water in Punpun and Falgu rivers. The Jahanabad constituency would have been saved from drought. If both these resources had been used on war-footing. I request the Central Government to provide immediate help to the State Government, so that the people of the area are saved from drought.