

Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter under rule 377. The people of the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, specially, Puari, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Almorah and Pithoragarh have to depend on jungles for woods to cook food. But due to the provisions of the Forest Act and the policy to protect the environment and the ban on cutting of trees, the people of these districts are not getting fire woods to cook their food and they are facing great difficulties. The people of this area have been making demand for cooking gas connections for a long time with a view to solve this problem because it is the only alternative of the firewood. Kerosene and hard coal is also not available in these area.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that more and more new gas connections should be given in these areas, specially in the Pauri and Chamoli districts and keeping in view the geographical situation of these areas it is necessary that a gas agency should be opened in every development block there and every consumer should be given two gas cylinders, i.e. D.B.C. and all those who are in the waiting list should be provided gas connection immediately.

- (iv) **Need to set up an electronic telephone exchange at Chara and Atrauli, Uttar Pradesh with STD facility.**

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWALE (Hathras): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House on the following subject under rule 377.

The condition of Charara and Atrauli telephone exchanges under Hathras constituency is very miserable due to which the businessmen and the common man find it difficult to maintain links through telephone. Keeping in view, the miserable conditions of the above said telephone exchanges, the Government had assured to provide S.T.D.

facility and convert these exchanges into electronic exchanges during the year 1991-92 but the position has not yet changed due to which the industrialists and the businessmen are finding it inconvenient to have necessary and relevant informations through telephone at times. Most of the telephone lines remain out of order and the people of all sections are waiting for long for their repair.

Therefore, my submission to the Government is that S.T.D facility should be provided to the Charra and Atrauli telephone exchanges and these exchanges be converted into electronic telephone exchanges with a view to provide the most modern facility to the people of those areas.

- (v) **Need to declare the whole country as drought affected and provide relief to the people affected by drought.**

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salem-pur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matters under the rule 377. The farmers are facing great difficulties due to severe drought conditions. The central and the Eastern parts of the country are much affected. There is a great anxiety among the farmers, as the monsoon has not activated even three weeks after the expected time. Kharif crop has not been sown due to the scarcity of water. The crops standing in the fields are drying up due to the shortage of water, the canals are dry, the tubewells are lying out of order and the drains are in broken condition. The irregular supply and load shedding has affected the agriculture adversely in many states. The pumping sets are lying idle in many States of the Northern-India due to the shortage of diesel. The condition has deteriorated to this extent that due to the low Kharif production most of the small and marginal farmers and the agricultural labourers will come on the verge of starvation. There is no fodder for the cattle as fodder crops have dried up. In many