

schemes under the State Plan owing to constraints of resources. This is despite significant step up in the plan outlay for education over the last few years. It would be extremely helpful if the centrally sponsored schemes or Central Sector schemes are introduced to provide them incentives in educationally backward states like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Rajasthan. Such a scheme would go a long way in helping the States to achieve total literacy and universalisation of elementary education. As such, I request the Central Government that adequate funds should be earmarked under these schemes and released to the State Governments in order to enable them to implement the schemes effectively so that the drop-out rate among SC & ST students is checked substantially.

- (ii) **Need to take steps for the proper maintenance of Tamil Nadu section of the Trivandrum - Kanyakumari National Highway No. 47**

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Tamil Nadu section of the Trivandrum Kanyakumari Highway, N.H. 47, is in a very bad condition; the road is severely damaged due to monsoon rains. There are pot holes, pits and cracks and formation of deep trenches on both the sides of road. There are frequent accidents due to them. It has become a matter of continuous concern that the Tamil Nadu part of the road is always kept in bad condition. To fit in with the frequent rains there and to suit the terrain, the method of maintenance of the road adopted in the Kerala part of the road may be followed in Tamil Nadu part too. I request the Central Government to carry out immediate maintenance works for the improvement of the roads at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to ensure that Raichur Thermal Plant is not closed**

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI

(Bellary): The Raichur thermal plant which has been contending with severe coal shortages is on the threshold of another crisis with miners working in the Singareni coal fields threatening to go on strike if they are not paid their wages by July 8th.

The Karnataka Power Corporation which runs the plant owes Rs. 18 crore to Coal India Limited. The fear expressed by the management is that it may not be able to pay dues. The management has warned Karnataka Power Corporation that the supply will be stopped completely.

Hence I request the Central Government to consider the matter seriously and settle the whole issue before the plant is closed.

- (iv) **Need to set up an electronic, telephone exchange at Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the disorder prevailing in the Communication Department in my Parliamentary Constituency of Pilibhit (U.P.). My constituency is terrorism prone area in tarai region. What to talk about rural area even telephones of D.M., S.P. do not work in cities. My own telephone is out of order for the last two months. The fault has not been repaired despite repeated complaints. So I request the Union Government that an electronic Exchange should be set up immediately in view of the situation prevailing in my constituency.

- (v) **Need to take steps for madifecing the Police Act to cope up with the worsening law and order situation in the country**

[English]

SHRI SHYAMLAL KAMAL (Basti): The