

[Shri Chaman Lal Gupta]

Government should think about their rehabilitation. A demand for the construction of a bridge between Basauli and Kathua over river Ravi is being raised for the last ten years. It should be constructed by including it in any of the projects.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say that Kashmir can remain an integral part of the country only when a clear-cut policy is formulated for the State. The whole country should give a befitting reply to the sinister designs of the ISI of Pakistan. The statements of political leader including that of Shri Farooq Abdullah should be appropriate so that the morale of the country and the security forces who are sacrificing their lives never goes down. We should pay utmost attention towards it.

Sir, in the end, I would like to say once again that I strongly oppose the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Beni Prasad Varma will make a statement regarding village public telephones.

15.37 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[Translation]

#### Re: Village Public Telephones

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Sir, I discussed the subject relating to Village Public Telephones with senior officers of my Ministry and following decisions were taken :

(a) A thorough inquiry into the veracity of the reports of the field units regarding functioning of Village Public Telephones be got conducted by an independent agency such as the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad or any of the Indian Institutes of Management. A decision regarding appointment of a specific agency will be taken soon.

(b) The CBI will be asked to investigate as to whether all norms of administrative, technical and financial suitability were observed while ordering and procuring the equipment for the Village Public Telephones during the last seven years when the MARR System was introduced by the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that your efforts for improvement in the functioning of telephones in rural areas will continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : This will also help in that case...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This effort should have been continued.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It is our endeavour...(Interruptions) That is why, we were constrained to take such a decision today.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Half-an-Hour discussion was raised in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a separate issue. Inquiry is a different matter. I had said that required measures for improvement in it should continue...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI (Srinagar) : Please reply to my question in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You might have heard the reply given by the hon. Minister.

15.39 hrs.

#### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. President's Address has been placed before Parliament as a document of the Government. At present, the country is facing an acute problem of unemployment and this document reveals that the Government has not paid any attention towards it. Not only this but the policy of this Government has been against the educated unemployed youth of the country. Now-a-days, every Minister and even the Prime Minister mentions privatization in his speech. More and more privatization will hamper the momentum of cooperative movement which has been going on in the country for the last many decades. The Central Government is trying to go in for privatization of Railways, Airways, Power, Transportation and roads etc. Under such circumstance, what will remain with the Government? It is at the behest of a political party that they are conspiring to invite multinational companies in the country which will render the youth of the country unemployed.

At present, computerization and mechanisation is in vogue. India is the most populous country in the world. I request you to pay attention towards the welfare of educated youth by following the path of Mahatma Gandhi. When we encourage cottage industry in the country, only then we will be able to provide employment to the youth. Unemployed youth of the country will get few opportunities of employment if multinational companies are invited and big industries are set up by the ruling party to run its Government and to seek support of other political parties. More mechanisation will breed more unemployment. Instead of encouraging privatisation more industries should be set up in the cooperative sector.

What is the position of power sector today? Not only the Chief Minister of Northern India but the Chief Ministers of all the States favour privatization of power