

(ii) Need to implement revised UGC pay scales for college and University teachers throughout the country

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): The U.G.C. scale that was implemented in all the other States from 1973 onwards has not so far been implemented in Kerala State alone. The revised U.G.C. scale proposed by the U.G.C. has also been implemented in 17 states. This has created real hardship to the teaching staff of the colleges of Kerala. They have been representing their grievances to successive Governments during all these years. Finally, they have started agitation from 6.2.1990, since they had no other alternative left. For the last one week their representatives are on hunger strike. This has very seriously affected the higher education of our State and the future of thousands of students in our State is in danger. I, therefore, request that the Government of India may intervene in the matter and bring about an amicable settlement without simply leaving it as a State-subject, since it is the duty and responsibility of the Government to see that the decisions of a body like that of the U.G.C. are implemented uniformly throughout the country.

(iii) Need to augment the capacity of Atholi Telephone Exchange In Calicut

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): This is to draw the attention of the House to the telephone exchange of Atholi, a thickly populated suburban area of Calicut. This exchange was started in 1981 in a rented building and nearly 100 telephone subscribers were partially benefited. Nearly two hundred new applicant are now in the waiting list. A textile mill having 700 workmen at Kunnathara also comes under the same Exchange.

Atholi was also considered for group dialing unit and there was a proposal for inauguration of the same by the end of 1989. But the same has been kept in abeyance. I request the Government to look into this

matter and direct the department for activating the system without any delay.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to provide adequate facilities for crushing of sugarcane in Maharashtra

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE (Beed): The total production of sugarcane in Maharashtra this year has been about 370 lakh tonnes, which is a record in itself. The crushing capacity of existing sugar mills in that State is about 285 lakh tonnes which means that the production sugarcane as compared to the actual crushing capacity is 85 lakh tonnes more. In case this additional quantity of sugarcane is not crushed, the farmers will have to suffer a loss of crores of rupees. In order to save the farmers from this probably loss, the Central Government should contact the Maharashtra Government and provide adequate relief to the farmers in respect of excise duty and free-sale quota. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this important problem and urge him to take an initiative to solve this problem.

(v) Need to check the rising prices in the country

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salem-pur): During the last one month the prices have risen at a very fast pace throughout the country. In the eastern region the price of cement has increased from Rs. 70/- per bag to Rs. 95/- per bag while the price of iron bars which was Rs. 800/- per quintal, has gone up to Rs. 1300/- per quintal. Urea fertiliser and salt has disappeared from the market. It is causing great resentment among the farmers and an anxiety among the rural population.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and the Government to take effective steps to curb the rise in prices.