

[Shrimati Uma Gajapathi Raju]

fishermen as also by the unemployed youth under the self-employment schemes. The hike in fuel prices by the Union Government has put the mechanised boat operators under hardship. On representation by the small mechanized boat operators, the Union Government in its Budget for 1990-91 announced some relief by waiving excise duty on the diesel oil used by these boats. Though the duty waiver was announced in the month of May 1990, to this day the necessary orders to implement it has not reached the local Excise Duty authorities in Visakhapatnam. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to issue orders for implementation of the waiver of Excise duty on diesel oil used by mechanized boats run under the co-operative sector.

iv) Need to declare East and West Champarson districts in Bihar as drought affected areas and take remedial measures

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA (Bettiah): Sir, the agriculture has continuously been kept on the top priority in the Five Year Plans as well as in the current Five Year Plan. The Central Government has been planning to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains but it would be possible only if we tackle the problem of drought and floods in the country Sir, this time the districts of East and West Champaran in Bihar are under spell of drought after having been visited by devastating floods in 1986 and 1987. These districts are chiefly paddy growing areas and famous granery of Bihar. The entire Bhadai crop has almost been lost. These districts still remain agricultural districts where 90% population depend on farming. The loss of Bhadai crop and the imminent loss of Kharif crop as well has completely disheartened the people and put them in a state of frustration and despair. In view of the critical situation prevailing there. I request that the East and the West Champaran districts of Bihar be declared drought affected areas and the following measures be adopted on war-footing to help people sustain themselves through

the crisis (i) provision of 24 hours electricity to the existing tube-wells; (ii) 100% subsidised sinking of tube-wells in the area; (iii) immediate restoration of damaged Gandak canal system specially that of Triveni, Don and Ghorashahan and their distributories; (iv) arrangement for free distribution of seeds and fertiliser for Rabi cultivation to small and marginal farmers as well as provision of interest free loan facility to them; (v) provision of IRDP loans to those below poverty line and lastly immediate implementation of hard manual schemes.

v) Need to take steps to provide kerosene and cooking gas in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHAVJI (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last two months Madhya Pradesh has been experiencing acute shortage of kerosene and L.P.G. which are items of daily necessity. As a result thereof people form long queues in front of the kerosene dealers' shops. Due to non-availability of kerosene village life has become miserable and in the villages where electricity connections have not been given people are forced to pass their nights in darkness. On the other due to non-availability of cooking gas the middle class people living in cities and towns are experiencing a lot of hardships and problems to their food.

I would, therefore, like to request the Central Government to take concrete steps to remove this grave crisis.

vi) Need to set-up electronic Telephone Exchange in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this age of science and race of materialistic life, telephone has become not only a powerful any swift medium of communication, but also a necessity of life. But I regret to State that the Government is not able to meet the growing demands of telephones. Particu-