

[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 Bhadaï crop has almost been lost. These districts still remain agricultural districts where 90% population depend on farming. The loss of Bhadaï 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-

larly in backward localities and districts where even though telephone connections have been given, but they are not working smoothly. The working of telephone network in Azamgarh area of Uttar Pradesh is not at all satisfactory. There are a large number of people in the waiting list and disturbances in telephone system are causing concern for the people who have already been given connections. Telephone lines mostly remain out of order. Local calls and trunk calls do not materialise. If a complaints is made, it is being replied that machines have become outdated and useless. For some reason or the other even the chairs shown in telephone bills are much higher than the amount worked out on the basis of number of calls made. Having been disappointed, a number of people have disconnected their telephone connections. Even telephones of peoples' representatives such as M.Ps, M.L. As and M.L.Cs are not working properly and it is a serious thing. Under the above circumstances, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communication to take steps to streamline the telephone system in Azamgarh immediately and replace the existing telephone exchange at Azamgarh by an electronic exchange at the earliest.

**vii) Need to take effective steps to implement one rank one pension scheme**

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government made an announcement in the first session of the House to give one rank one pension to ex-servicemen. But it has not so far taken any steps in this regard. Question put in the House in this regard has also not been replies clearly. Due to this ambiguity on the part of the Government a sense of discontentment and distrust is fast developing in the minds of ex-servicemen.

The Government must take immediate steps to fulfil the demand of 'one rank one pension' of the lakhs of ex-servicemen in the country and implement this decision so that justice could be done to them who have been fighting for this for last several years. We all

are determined to see that this demand of the ex-servicemen is fulfilled.

**viii) Need to issue licences to the hawkers selling goods in trains**

SHRI PRATAP SINGH (Banka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large number of hawkers are earning their livelihood by selling various commodities in trains in the Indian railways. Since long there has been a demand of hawkers to issue licences. While on the one hand this system will increase revenue to Indian Railways, on the other it will provide employment avenues to a large number of people. Passengers travelling in trains will also be benefited by their services. Though these people are selling their goods without licences but they have to innumerable difficulties in absence of licenceness. They are being harassed due to non-possession of licenceness. These people have bribe in compulsion to run their business. While this practice gives rise to corruption, it also tarnishes image of the hawkers before the passengers.

I would, therefore, like to make a demand to the Government to pass order immediately by considering sympathetically their the demand of issuing licences to these hawkers so that they could run their business fearlessly and earn their livelihood.

**(ix) Need to abolish taxes levied on electronic goods in Punjab and to declare it as Industrially backward State**

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like draw the attention of this august House to the following matter of public importance.

Due to excessive taxation the electronic industry is suffering heavy losses in Punjab, as a result thereof a number of small and medium electronic industries have either been closed or are on the verge of closure in Mohali and several other areas of Punjab. While the rate of this tax is quite low in its adjoining State, it is more than double in