

[English]

- (v) Demand for including the Bhayinder area in Bombay Telephone Corporation.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane): Sir, Bhayinder area had been the part of Bombay Circle for telephone purposes for the last 50 years, but recently while forming the new Bombay Telephone Corporation, Bhayinder part has been excluded from the jurisdiction of Bombay Telephone Corporation, while new areas like New Bombay and Mumbra are included in Bombay Corporation. Thus, it is a clear case of injustice to the people of Bhayinder area and, therefore, they are agitating. It is requested that Government should immediately look into it and include Bhayinder area in Bombay Corporation immediately.

[Translation]

- (vi) Need to direct the Food Corporation of India to purchase mustard seeds at support price.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price of mustard oilseeds has declined from Rs. 500 per quintal during last year to Rs. 300 to 315 per quintal this year. Even though the farmer used quality seeds and costly fertilizers and toiled in the fields, he is not getting adequate price to meet even their cost of production. Mustard has reached the market. If the Government do not pay any attention to it immediately the farmers would be economically ruined.

I would like to submit to the Agriculture Minister that even though Government has fixed the price of mustard oilseeds at Rs. 400 per quintal, but it is being sold at far lesser price in the markets. The Government should immediately take measures to ensure support price for mustard in order to protect the interest of the farmers. The Indian farmer is the mainstay of our country's economy. The House should discuss this matter. Similarly the prices of *Taramira* seed and *Toria* seed is also declining sharply. The Government should direct FCI to purchase the product at support price so that the farmer could get the fair price for his agricultural produce in time.

[English]

- (vii) Demand to Construct an airstrip at Gangtok, Sikkim

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI (Sikkim): The need to put Sikkim on the air map of the country can hardly be over emphasised in view of the frequent dislocation of road traffic due to landslides on the main national highway connecting Sikkim with the rest of the country. This is so particularly during the monsoon season when this area experiences heavy rainfall. The dislocation which sometimes continues for days causes great hardship to the people of the State. Not only prices of essential commodities go up beyond the reach of the common man but people also can not travel out of the State to respond to any emergency call.

This being the situation, a vayudoot service linking Gangtok the State capital with Bagdogra Airport at Siliguri in West Bengal has been a must. It may be mentioned here that survey was carried out by the Civil Aviation Department for a suitable airstrip. Such an area was also found but it required levelling work involving considerable expenditure. The State Government, because of its limited financial resources, had requested the Civil Aviation Department to bear the expenditure. The matter has again been taken up with the Centre. It is requested that the construction of an airstrip at Gangtok be taken up at the earliest not only in the interest of the Sikkim but also in the larger interest of the country.

[Translation]

- (viii) Demand for measures to provide adequate transport facilities in the country, especially in Delhi on bandh days

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): The number of bandhs organised in the country in general and Delhi in particular are increasing day by day. The frequent bandhs have a direct impact on day to day life of the people. Taking the plea of bandhs a group of traders open the shops

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.