

able hardships to make a living.

I have been repeatedly demanding in this House that a separate provision be made in the Union Budget for the Development of eastern Uttar Pradesh. I had asked for large-scale industrial units to be set-up in that area so that it could develop. But no efforts have been made in this direction so far.

I want the Planning Commission to allocate separate funds for the development of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Central Government should immediately set-up a thermal power station, micro-wave tower, iron and steel plant, a Central poultry farm, a Krishi Vigyan Kendra, telephone industries and industrial units based on breweries.

(iii) Need to improve tele-communication and postal facilities in rural areas

[*English*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The failure of the Department of Telecommunications to instal timely the Public Call Offices, Combined Offices (Telegraph Offices on Morse Code) and Small Automatic Exchanges in the rural areas has resulted in a grave set-back to the provision of Telecom. services in the rural areas. The position is so depressing that even the Public Call Offices, both local and long distance sanctioned in the Sixth Plan and in the first two years of the Seventh Plan have not been installed so far, for want of stores, equipment and shortage of staff caused by the ban on recruitment, which is proving counter-productive, on account of the loss of revenue.

Hence, I request the Minister of Communications to ensure that all Rural Telephone Exchanges, Public Call Offices and Telegraph Offices are installed within one

year of their sanction and final payments. It is essential that all such projects which are pending for installation are taken up on top priority by training up a grass programme for the rural areas. It is the rural areas which require this facility the most.

Similarly, on the Postal side, the opening of new Post Offices and upgradation of those for which the State Governments are providing NRC should be ensured promptly. The cost Recovery Principle (FR 127) should not be applicable in the calculation of NRC for upgradation, as Sub-Post Offices constitute an essential social service. All Departmental Sub-Post Officers and ED-BOs within the local area of a Telephone Exchange should be provided COs on Morse Code and PCOs. The norms for sanctioning PCOs and COs and creating Telecom and Postal Divisions/Sub Divisions and upgrading EDBs to DSOs and DSOs to Head Post Offices/Departmental Telegraph Offices should be relaxed in special category States by giving a weightage of 33 per cent in the calculation of work load.

[*Translation*]

(iv) Need to allocate funds for schemes for providing drinking water in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last two years have seen very little rainfall in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. This has led to the drying up of all sources of water. This year there is a likelihood of an acute drinking water shortage in those areas. Efforts made till now to tackle this problem cannot be called to be adequate. It seems as if the Central or State Government did not foresee the enormity of the drinking-water problem. Efforts should have been initiated much earlier to combat this dreadful situation.