

vacant posts on different stations in Orissa should be filled up without any further delay. The candidates kept on the panel should be immediately given appointment orders.

[*Translation*]

(III) Need to fix remunerative price for mustard

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the price of mustard was Rs. 1100 per quintal last year but it has crashed down to Rs. 500 per quintal this year. The farmers toiled hard and produced a good crop of mustard by using costly seeds, insecticides and fertilizers, but they are not getting due reward for their efforts. Similarly, prices of *Taramira*, *Toria* and gram are also falling. Mustard crop has reached the market. If the Government does not take any action in this regard, it will adversely affect the farmers, and their economic condition will further worsen.

Therefore, it is my submission to the hon. Agriculture Minister that the minimum price of mustard should be fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal so that it is not sold at a cost lower than the actual cost of production in the market.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to Open a T.V. Centre at Bhanjanagar (Orissa)

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): A television Centre was to be opened at Bhanjanagar, Orissa, as per the decision of the Government. The building in the local B.Ed College was remodelled to facilitate opening of the T.V. Centre as per the suggestion and decisions of the T.V. engineers. Some centres for which permission has been given much after Bhanjanagar have already been opened. The apparatus obtained for T.V. Centre at Bhanjanagar has been diverted.

The people of Bhanjanagar and its adjoining areas have been holding high hopes as decision for a T.V. Centre at Bhanjanagar was made known long back. There is now no

reason to thwart the long cherished desire of the people of the area.

Monsoon as usual will break out in the second week of June. It is thus imperative that the T.V. Centre is opened at Bhanjanagar without any delay.

Bhanjanagar is the nucleus of Chumsur Sub-division in the State of Orissa. The opening of a T.V. Centre at Bhanjanagar thus needs no emphasis.

It is requested that a specific date for opening a T.V. Centre at Bhanjanagar be made known immediately.

(v) Need to start 'Light and sound programme on the life of Sita in Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi in Mithila region of Bihar.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mithila in North Bihar is the birth place of Sita. Sita has a special place in Indian history. Here is the story of sacrifice, the like of which is not found anywhere in the world.

The present generation of youngmen are not aware of the full life history of Sita.

Thousands of pilgrims from India and abroad visit Mithila every year. In order to acquaint the people with the life of Sita, it is requested that Sound and Light programme, the like of which is shown at Red Fort and Nehru Museum be shown at least at three places in Mithila, i.e. Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi.

It is earnestly requested that the Union Government should take initiative and exhibit these shown in Mithila.

[*Translation*]

(vi) Need for immediate Steps for providing drinking water in the districts of South-East Rajasthan which have been badly affected by drought

PROF NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) Sir, there is acute scar-

[Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat]

city of drinking water in Rajasthan. Rivers, Canals, ponds and wells have all dried up.

People are facing a lot of difficulty in Bhilwara, Chittorgarh and Udaipur districts of South-East Rajasthan. The condition in my constituency Chittorgarh is very serious. Even the tubewells and handpumps have dried up. Situation will take turn for the worse in the month of May and June. If the depth of the handpumps and tubewells is not increased adequately to solve the problem of drinking water immediately, the cattle as well as the human beings will perish. The Central Government should immediately make arrangement for high pressure rigs to provide drinking water, especially, in Chittorgarh area.

[English]

(vii) Need to provide S.T.D. in Mettur, salem district of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI. K. R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul): Sir, I wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to inadequate telephone facility in Mettur, Salem District of Tamil Nadu. There is no STD facility connecting Mettur with the rest of the country. Trunk calls do not materialise quickly and on time.

Mettur is a big industrial town, having various industries of public utility and a thermal power station. It has also a big dam nearby. People have to contact various places from Mettur in connection with their day to day business activity and other purposes. Also, people from other areas of the country have to contact often the people of this town. The general public and also the business community have get, for a long time, the necessity of STD facility so that other parts of the country could be contacted easily.

I therefore, request the hon. Minister of

Communications to consider the early provision of STD facility for Mettur.

(viii) Need to raise the monthly allocation of rice and wheat to West Bengal.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): From June 1988, the Central Government's monthly quota of both rice and wheat for West Bengal came down to 90,000 MT. Again from February 1989, the monthly quota of rice was further reduced by 16,000 MT and was brought down to 64,000 MT only. Thus within a period of about one year, the monthly quota of rice has been cut down by half. The situation has been worsened by the supply of sub-standard foodgrains and by despatch of inadequate quantity, much below the already cut down quota. For example in the last three months, arrival of wheat was only 49,000 MT, 14,000 MT and 47,000 MT and in April upto 14th, the arrival was only 6,000 MT. This is threatening the entire Public Distribution System in West Bengal and needs immediate rectification.

Issue price of rice has been enhanced seven times within a period of 5.10.82 to 25.1.89, common rice from Rs. 188.00 to Rs. 244 per quintal, fine variety from Rs. 200 to Rs. 304; and superfine from Rs 250 to Rs. 325. Even the price of rice from ITDP areas was raised severely by Rs. 34 (common), Rs. 71 (fine) and Rs. 77 (superfine) per quintal. Similar situation prevails with regard to the issue price of wheat too.

Orient Jute Mill godown, Budge Budge used by the FCI is lying closed with a huge issuable stock. No measure is being taken for its opening. Union Government should immediately intervene for its opening.

I urge upon the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to immediately raise the monthly allocation of rice and wheat for West Bengal and guarantee that the arrivals are adequate and sub-standard grains are not issued. I also urge for the reduction of issue prices for the whole country.