

I urge upon the Government to stop this retrenchment, give suitable compensation or alternative jobs to retrenched or transferred employees and fill the vacancies caused by retirement and death by fresh recruitment so that production does not suffer.

- (iv) **Demand for Improving the existing telecommunications services before going in for their further expansion**

SHRIK. J. ABBASI (Domariaganj): The telecommunication network in the country is being greatly expanded these days. While expansion of telephone lines is very important, it is necessary to give priority to improve the existing telephone services in the rural areas. It has been observed that even though telephone lines are provided in different parts of our rural areas, the instruments do not function properly and sometimes it becomes difficult to establish contact with places that are hardly twenty or thirty kilometres from the place of call. In my Constituency of Domariaganj in Uttar Pradesh, for instance, it is almost impossible to establish contact even with the district headquarters. On enquiry, we are told that the batteries fitted to operate the instruments are weak or there is shortage of personnel.

It is a great facility to have telephone connection in remote areas, as is the case now, and one would like to use these connections for communications with far-off towns and metropolitan cities. But if these connections do not function properly, the facilities provided at great expense are wasted. I, therefore, draw the attention of the Minister for Communications to the need for improving the existing services before going in for further expansion.

[Translation]

- (v) **Demand for allowing female candidates to have their schools as Centres for Board's examinations**

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I want to point out that the Government has been giving emphasis on the promotion of female education. So many schools have been opened in Delhi and in other parts of the country. The Government has made efforts to provide all facilities to the female students for continuing their studies further. But the female students who are appearing in the Higher Secondary or Board's examinations are facing a lot of difficulty because generally, the examination Centres are located at distant places. Female students have to go to another school located in another colony for taking her examination. This system has to be changed. In order to save the female students from this inconvenience it is necessary that examination centres should be located in those very schools or in the same colony where the female students pursue their studies. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Human Resource to issue necessary instruction to Delhi Administration in this regard.

[English]

- (vi) **Demand for increase in the monthly quota of rice and palmolein oil to the State of Orissa**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: (Bargarh): Sir, the State of Orissa is the worst victim of vagaries of monsoon and severe drought of 1987. It is essential that States affected by natural calamities like flood, drought, cyclone etc. are provided with adequate quan-

[Sh. Chintamani Jena]

tities of essential commodities including foodgrains from the Central Pool. In the case of Orissa State, it has been otherwise, as the normal monthly quota allotted of the State has been substantially reduced, which has put the State in a very difficult situation.

Even the monthly quota of palmolein oil has been drastically cut from December, 1987 causing hardship to the poor, lower-middle-class and middle-class people of the State.

Similar is the situation with rice. Orissa being a rice-consuming State, needs more rice from Central Pool. Other rice-consuming States are getting monthly quota of rice according to their demands but the request of Orissa for allotting more rice has been ignored and a very meagre quantity of rice is being allotted to the State. The plight of people of the State in general and SC and ST and the down-trodden in particular cannot be described in words. A major portion of the rice allotted to the State is utilised in the 'Food for Work' programme under IRDP, NREP and RLEGP and only a very small quantity of rice remains to be sold through PDS.

I would request the Food and Civil Supplies Minister to come to the rescue of the State and allot monthly quota of rice as requested by the State Government and ensure more monthly quota of palmolein oil as was allotted in the month of October and November, 1987.

**(vii) Measures to improve the per hectare yield of ground-nut**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) Sir, a very high percentage of edible-oil seeds production comes from dry-land farming. The per hectare yield of ground-nut is very low. Effective steps have to be initiated to improve the yield of ground-

nut. By taking the following steps, the yield of ground-nut can be doubled and this will obviate the necessity of spending a few thousand crores of rupees for import of edible-oil.

This amount can be utilised for improving the yield of ground-nut by taking the following steps:

Considerable sum of money may be spent for evolving high-yielding seed and the same may be multiplied and supplied to farmers on a large scale. Drought-resistance variety of ground-nutseed may have to be evolved and distributed to farmers. Necessary fertilisers and pesticides suitable for dry-farming may be made available for farmers at cheap rates. Proper agricultural implements for ploughing, harvesting and harrowing may be made available to the growers of ground-nut. Other facilities like cheap credit, scientific methods may be made available to the farmers so as to enable them to get a better per-hectare yield of groundnut.

**(viii) Demand for treating dairy, piggery and poultry as industry and to increase the limit of Financial Assistance to them accordingly**

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Sir, the employment problem, particularly among the educated youth, is a matter of grave concern in Punjab. Special efforts are, therefore, being made to help them in setting up their own ventures and bring them up in time for productive activity. Under the scheme of self-employment for educated unemployed youth, a target of 15,000 has been fixed for the Punjab state, but I regret to say that only 4000 applications have been forwarded to various banks for providing them financial assistance.

The scheme of providing self-employment to educated unemployed youth has