

# MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

## (I) Need to Improve Telephone Services in Barauni (Bihar)

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI** (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important matter under rule 377. Barauni is an important industrial centre. Big industrial establishments like refinery, fertilizer factory, thermal power station etc. are located there. Factories like the Bata Shoe Factory, Spinning Mill etc. are functioning at Mokameh, 15 kilometers from Barauni. Thus, within a radius of 20 kilometers from Barauni, many big and small factories are engaged in production of some commodity or the other. It is regrettable that for such an important industrial centre, the telephone service is far from adequate. In fact, Barauni should have direct telephone link with the capital of the country but, not to speak of Delhi, it is not even properly linked with the State capital, Patna. From Barauni, it generally takes about three to four days to establish telephonic contact with Patna. It is even impossible to contact the nearby town Lakhisarai on telephone.

The saddest part of it is that although essential infrastructural facilities are already available there, yet the telephone service could not be run smoothly. About one and a half years back, a building had been constructed there for establishing an automatic telephone exchange. The project estimates for 600-line automatic telephone service had been sanctioned about three years back. But it is surprising that even after incurring a lot of expenditure on providing infrastructural facilities, automatic telephone exchange could not be established there till now. A 20-line exchange should have been set up there till the end of the last financial year. I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to take immediate necessary steps to obviate the difficulties of the people and to ensure adequate use of communication service for the industrial progress of the country and to prevent wasteful expenditure by Government.

## (II) Need to set up some heavy industry in district Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) to remove unemployment among the youngmen.

**SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI** (Faizabad) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Faizabad is the most backward district of U.P. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the problem of unemployment among the youth of that area. This is one of those districts which have been declared most backward in the industrial sphere by the Central Government. Bikapur tehsil of this district is most backward. The youths living in the rural areas of this tehsil are beset with so many problems because of vast tracts of fallow land there.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to set up heavy industry in the public sector there so as to solve the problem of unemployment, keeping in view the availability of land and the backwardness of the region and the absence of any big industry there.

(English]

## (III) Need to take immediate steps to establish two more T.V. relay stations at Mokokchung and Dimapur in Nagaland.

**SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK** (Nagaland) : At present we have a T.V. relay station at Kohima. But because of its low power transmitter and also due to topography and terrain, people of Phek, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mokokchung, Tuensang and Mon districts and Dimapur area are being deprived of viewing T.V. programmes through Kohima T.V. Relay Station.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to take immediate step to establish two more T.V. relay stations in Nagaland, that is, one at Mokokchung and another at Dimapur.

## (IV) Need for Central assistance to Maharashtra for solving the drinking water problem in the scarcity hit villages in district Buldana.

**SHRI MUKUL WASNIK** (Buldhana) : The drinking water problem in Maharashtra State has assumed serious dimensions. The weather is getting hot day by day and the problem is getting more and more severe.

The team of officers from the Central Government which had recently visited some district headquarters to analyse the situation is a step in the right direction. What is most urgently needed is to implement the suggestions of the team of Central Government Officers.

During my recent visit to Buldana, my Lok Sabha constituency, I had discussion with the officials and I visited some difficult villages also. Out of 1392 villages in the district 397 villages are facing this problem. Because of lack of finance the problem has not been solved. Similar kind of situation exists in the other part of the State.

I request the hon. Minister to give necessary direction and the necessary finance to the State Government to solve the problem at the earliest.

- (v) Need to release adequate funds by the Centre to the Uttar Pradesh Government to meet the unprecedented drought situation in the State.

**SHRI CHANDRA MOHAN SINGH NEGI** (Garhwal): Eight Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh, i.e. Pauri Garhwal, Almora, Pithoragargh, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Uttarakashi, Dehradun and Nainital are facing severe drought condition resulting in damage of more than 50% of the Rabi crops and acute scarcity of drinking water. The above condition is also prevailing in 12 other districts i.e. Allahabad, Banda, Kanpur Rural, Hamirpur, Saharanpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Jhansi, Agra, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Etah. Uttar Pradesh Government has requested the Army to provide 100 tankers and 175 canvas bags for transporting drinking water to the people of the affected area.

The Government of India should meet the demand of the State Government immediately and also release adequate funds to meet the unprecedented drought condition prevailing in the State.

- (vi) Need to purchase paddy from the paddy growers of Andhra Pradesh at the same price as is paid to Punjab farmers and also to give bonus to them.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO** (Vijayawada): The Union Government has announced very recently its decision to allow any person or institution to export wheat saying that the godowns are full with foodgrains. The farmers in the South are wondering why the Government has not taken decision to allow fine and superfine rice that is grown in South also for export just as wheat is allowed. Though technically FCI has opened purchase centres, it is not purchasing paddy

from farmers of Krishna and Godavari districts but is purchasing rice from rice mills only. The FCI is however purchasing lakhs of tonnes of paddy from farmers of Punjab.

There is a difference of about Rs. 12/- per quintal of fine and super-fine varieties of rice that is procured in Punjab and that in Andhra Pradesh. Because of this, the farmers of Andhra Pradesh who are subjected to natural calamities often are put to loss. So, the FCI should pay the same price to the Andhra farmers also. In fact, one member of APC recommended giving of higher price to paddy produced in coastal States because of the risk element involved. The Government is announcing bonus to Punjab farmers while it does not do so in regard to the farmers in South. I would, therefore, urge the Union Government to look into all these matters and take necessary steps in this regard.

- (vii) Need to review the provisions of the Employees State Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1984

**SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI** (Nabadwip): The Employees State Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1984 has not been able to safeguard the interests of the employees. It has enhanced the rates of contribution of the employees while reducing the corresponding benefits to them. Employees' Unions have complained that the provisions of the Act as well as Rules of the General Regulations make it evident that the ESI Corporation is using the institution more and more as a profitable business at the cost of the employees rather than as a guarantee of social security to them. It is also relevant to mention that before the amendments were made there had been no endeavour on the part of the Government to get the opinion of the Central Trade Unions on the matter.

The Amendment has been particularly hard on women employees who will be deprived of their benefits during the period subsequent to maternity leave. The interests of substitute and casual workers have also been adversely hit.

Government should refrain from implementing the Amendment Act and review the provisions after discussion with the Central Trade Unions.