

- (ii) Need to increase the amount of stipend being paid to SC/ST students of sports schools

SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, male and female sports students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in sports complex in Madhya Pradesh are being given stipend of Rs. 150/- and Rs. 160/- per month respectively. The students belonging to these categories living in hostels are given an amount of Rs. 150/- per month as stipend in the model schools. Similarly the post matric students belonging to Adivasis and Harijans are being given Rs. 115 to Rs. 175 per month in hostels by the Central Government. In the light of the skyrocketing prices of commodities, such a meagre amount given by the Centre raise serious concern and reflects the negligent stance also. The tribal male and female students are being given Rs. 250/- and Rs. 260/- per month respectively by the Madhya Pradesh Government in the State since December, 1973. The amount granted by the Centre is totally inadequate. How can the students meet their expenses on their food and study etc. is anybody's guess.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Welfare to increase the amount of stipend to Rs. 300/- per month in order to provide them relief.

- (iii) Need to provide better telecom facilities in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur) : Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra from the tribal belt in Vidarbha region. This area is facing the problems in the field of telecommunications thereby hampering developmental, administrative and public utility work. This naxalite affected area which is in the heart of a dense forest, is scarcely populated with long distances between villages.

Telecommunication department in Maharashtra has recommended telecommunications between Sironcha, Achori, Etapalli, Allapalli and other adjoining areas to facilitate developmental and administrative work. This facility shall also be useful to Bastar region in Madhya Pradesh and Adilabad district and adjoining area of Andhra Pradesh.

I urge upon the Central Government to provide satellite facility for telecommunications to this area urgently. STD facility to taluka places like Achori in tribal district of Gadchiroli in Maharashtra should be given immediately.

- (iv) Need to issue commemorative coins in the memory of martyrs of freedom movement.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has done commendable work

by issuing commemorative coins in the memory of a number of great personalities of the country. But some martyrs and freedom fighters like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Rajguru and Sukhdev whose sacrifices are no less important than others, have not been given this honour even after such a long period after the Independence.

I, therefore, urge the Government to issue commemorative coins in the memory of these five martyrs and also issue currency note of the denomination of rupees one thousand bearing their photographs.

- (v) Need to open more LPG outlets in Jehanabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from Jahanabad district some areas of Patna district also come under Jahanabad Parliamentary Constituency but there is only one LPG distributor in the whole district due to which the consumers have to face many difficulties. It is expected that due to increase in the number of consumers in Jahanabad the number of LPG outlets will be raised.

There are many blocks in Jahanabad district. So, the consumers there have to face a lot of difficulty in bringing LPG cylinders from Jahanabad. Although Masoudi block in Patna was included in Rolling marketing scheme many years ago yet no LPG distributor has been appointed there so far. Arwal subdivision is also thickly populated but there is no LPG agency. Likewise Ghoshi, Kurtha, Makhdoompur and Kako blocks of Jahanabad district are eligible for LPG outlets, yet they have not been covered under the marketing scheme.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government that LPG agency be appointed in Masoudi block of Patna at the earliest and the number of LPG agencies should also be increased in Jahanabad city. The process for allotting agencies in Arwal, Ghoshi, Makhdoompur, Kurtha and Kako should be initiated at the earliest.

- (vi) Need to protect the interests of Handloom workers particularly in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : The plight of the Handloom workers all over the country in general and those in Andhra Pradesh in particular, has become precarious. The Handloom sector has been adversely affected with the new economic reforms introduced by Union Government in 1991. The prices of the raw materials such as yarn and colours etc. have gone higher. During 1991 alone the prices of yarn has increased by 35.73 per cent whereas the prices of finished goods has increased by 5.43 per cent only. This resulted in throwing the Handloom workers out of