

lakh people from Ganjam district of Orissa have settled down in Surat district in Gujarat State. The existing facilities in the weekly Okha Express from Orissa to Gujarat are not adequate to cater to the needs of the large traffic existing between the commercial centre like Berhampur and the industrially-developed Surat.

Hence, I request the Minister of Railways to pass orders for providing lavatory facilities in the DMU train between Palasa and Cuttack as well as attaching additional bogies for Berhampur passengers in the Okha Express with immediate effect.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to Provide Electronic Telephone Exchange in Hathras, U.P.

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL (HATHRAS): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give information under Rule 377- The Telephone Exchange working in Hathras Nagar has not been functioning satisfactorily for a long time. Citizen of the Region and consumers have been demanding that the telephone Exchange in Hathras City should be converted into electronic telephone exchange. Keeping in view the demand of the telephone consumers, I also requested the Central Government to convert the above Exchange into electronic one. The Central Government sanctioned a new machine to be installed immediately for 2000 lines but even after the lapse of a long time, arrangements have not been made to install the new machine. For this reason, citizen of the region have been deprived the facility of simple, effective telephone services. The consumers are quite angry. Apart from this, Telephone Exchanges existing in Sikandrarao, Atrauli, Charra and Sasm under the district of Aligarh are also not in good working order. The consumers have to face inconveniences. I, therefore, request the Central Government that arrangements to instal the new machine at the Hathras Telephone Exchange to provide simple and good telephone facility to the citizens of the Region. Along this necessary instructions may be issued to make such facilities available at other Telephone Exchanges.

(iv) Need to Sanction Adequate funds for Upkeep and Maintenance of Phulvaria Reservoir in Nawada District, Bihar.

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM (Nawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Phulvaria dam was constructed by the Central Government in Bihar State. No proper attention is being paid towards its proper maintenance as a result of which the conditions of the dam and of the canals emanating from it has become deplorable. The water of this dam which is supplied to the farmers, is not being used because due to broken canals all the water goes a waste. Due to this, the farmers are not getting the facility of irrigation. I,

therefore, demand from the Central Government that at least a sum of Rs. 18 crores may be allotted for maintenance of Phulvaria dam situated in Nawada district of Bihar, so that the canals and the dam may be maintained properly and water is made available to the farmers according to their requirement.

(v) Need to Release Adequate Funds for Rehabilitation of People Affected by blow out in oil well at Pasarlapudi, Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (AMALAPURAM): Sir, the blow out that took place at Pasarlapudi in Well No. 19 of ONGC from the 8th of January, 1995 to 10th March, 1995 has caused severe damages to the property of the people in and around the area in East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh and also loss of more than Rs. 100 crore to the ONGC. More than 10,000 people have suffered due to blow out and 1,000 houses have been severely damaged and more than 10,000 people have been evacuated to the safer places. More than 2,000 acres of paddy have been affected and 5,000 coconut trees damaged in the blow out. Nearly 400 families took shelters in the relief camps set up at Amalapuram. In the radius of 10 kms. around the blow out site the farmers have lost their agricultural crops. Coconut crops and paddy crops. The hon. Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and ONGC officials also visited the site many times.

From beginning of the drilling operations by the ONGC in K.G. project of Amalapuram the ONGC have been using the local road and bridges for their heavy vehicles traffic resulting damage in roads/bridges in the area. The people of Amalapuram have been agitating against the ONGC to give some financial assistance for construction of the roads and bridges in the area. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also requested the Government of India from time to time to release funds for the development of Konsema area of Amalapuram.

The ONGC is getting crores of rupees from K.G. project area of Andhra Pradesh by way of crude oil and natural gas. Still there are rich petroleum reserves for exploration.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas to take necessary steps to help the people who have been affected in the blow out and give compensation for the crops damaged and release funds for construction of roads and bridges.

(vi) Need to Establish Fishing Harbours along the coastal line in the Arabian Sea coast lying in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (NAGERCOIL): Sir, establishment