

(vi) Need to remove Anomalies in One Time increase in Pension Scheme of Retired Defence Personnel

[Translations]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): One time increment has been given to the retired personnel of different categories of Defence Services under: "One rank on Pension" policy but many other categories have not been included in that. Due to this there is great discontentment among the ex-serviceman.

The ex-servicemen are disciplined and peace loving citizens of the country, but there is a great discontentment among them for being deprived of the increase in the pension and the peace loving and disciplined citizens might feel forced to resort to the path of agitation due to this action of the Government.

After retirement from defence services, these people have been deprived of this increase due to their re-employment in the Government, Semi-Government departments and corporations or other bodies. But similarly those army personnels who have been given honorary rank have also been deprived of increment in their pension.

I request to the Government of India that increment in the pension should be given to all these ex-servicemen who have been deprived of increment to bring an end to the discontentment prevailing among the ex-servicemen.

[English]

(vii) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to State Government of Sikkim for Setting Up More Open Schools with Nepali as a Medium of Instruction

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Sir, the student population of Sikkim comprises one-fourth of the total population of the State but the problem of high rate of drop-out is also over increasing.

This can be attributed to socio-economic conditions of the people, insufficient and lack of well qualified teachers, difficult terrain and insufficient resources at the hand of the State Government, etc.

In such a scenario, open schools are becoming popular among the drop-out students who wish to complete their education. The medium of instruction for National Open Schooling available to them is only Hindi or English. This is

discouraging the students. It is very much required that the medium should be Nepali which will enable a large mass of rural population also to have access to basic education.

I would like to urge upon the Union Government to provide the State Government financial and professional support to set up more open schools and also to introduce Nepali as medium of instruction upto senior secondary level.

(viii) Need to Improve Telecommunication Facilities in Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.

[Translation]

DR. S.P. YADAV (SAMBHAL): Sir, the condition of telecommunication services in my Parliamentary Constituency, Sambhal is not good, whereas this region is located just 150 kilometer away from Delhi, the capital of the country. Goods made of bone, horns, leather and jewellery, sticks, combs etc. are exported a larger scale. It is a big trading centre of Mentha Sugar and grains. But all the traders are very unhappy with the condition of telephone service there. Some years ago, automatic telephone service was introduced. But now this is not working properly.

I, therefore, demand from the Government of India that electronic telephone services be provided with immediate effect to Sambhal Sarayatarin, Hayatnagar, Bahjoyi, Khirsi, Gunnour, Babrala and all the police stations, tehsils and all the blocks.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What shall we do now? Shall we forego the Lunch Hour and take up the next subject? It is because there are many hon. Members who want to participate in the debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the question is of policy, Are we to forego the Lunch Hour and take up the next subject so that we can save at least one hour? It is left to the desire of the House.

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