

reach the spot, the damage to property and life is already caused. This is a major calamity causing hardship to poor families. If a natural calamity occurs anywhere, requisite Government support is being extended. However, in this respect only Rs. 1,500 is being offered to the fire victims by the Government and the General Insurance Corporation of India. This is too small a sum, in view of the increasing costs of roofing material and the house hold materials.

I urge upon the Central Government to evolve a permanent scheme to be followed by all the States to provide sufficient funds to cover the expenses to upgrade the roofing with fire proof materials like A.C. sheets either in the forms of total relief or subsidy cum loan as is being given in the Shelter Improvement Scheme of HUDCO. This scheme must cover all the eligible fire victims in the country. It needs a sum of Rs, 7,000 on an average per house.

(iii) Need to start teaching activity at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertganj): Although Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh has been recognised as Central University but the teaching activity is yet to start. Owing to non-appointment of lecturers, special officers and non-teaching staff in the University, the job of University is being delayed.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested that the teaching work in Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University Lucknow may be started at the earliest.

(iv) Need to sanction the proposal of Uttar Pradesh Government for development of tourist places in Garhwal region and to provide funds therefor

[Translation]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): There is a need for development of roadside amenities i.e. public lavatories, bathrooms, cafeteria, tin sheds for travellers etc, for the benefit of travellers/tourists at pilgrimage routes of Garhwal Mandal in Uttranchal like Yamnotri, Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath. Accordingly, Uttaranchal Development had submitted a proposal of Rs. 60.54 lakhs to the Union Government for the development of roadside amenities at three place in Tehri District, four places in Chamoli District and Six places in Uttarkashi District but the above amount has not been provided so far.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested that by giving their special attention to this need, arrangements may be made for allocating above funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh at the earliest.

(v) Need for conversion of Shahbad Telephone Exchange in U.P. into Electronic Exchange and provide S.T.D. facilities there

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shahbad city in Uttar Pradesh is a Tehsil headquarter. It is a commercial city. There are offices of Municipal Committee and educational institutions. The telephone system of Shahbad is not upto the mark. There, the telephone exchange

mostly remains out of order and the facility of STD has also not been provided so far. On account of this, the residents and industrialists are facing great hardships. As the industrialists of this city can not keep them in telephonic contact with other cities, it is badly affecting their business.

Therefore, the Hon'ble Minister of communications is requested that the telephone exchange at Sahbad city of Uttar Pradesh may be converted into electronic exchange immediately and STD facility on this exchange may also be provided.

(vi) Need to lay rail line between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the development of any particular area, Railways have a valuable contribution. Bihar is the most backward State of the country but the plight of North Bihar is more pitiable. There is neither any big industry nor adequate railways facilities. The distance between Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi is 60 Kilometres. The Railway Board had conducted a survey in 1984 for construction of a railway line on this route. According to that survey, the cost of the above rail line was estimated to be Rs. 28.70 crores. Again, on the demand from Members of Parliament and the people, another survey was carried out in 1990-91. As per the reports received in March, 1991 the cost for completing this work was estimated to be Rs. 61.79 crores. I request the Hon'ble Railways Minister to fulfil the aspirations of the people by completing the work of above rail line at the earliest so that the

development work could start in this backward area.

(vii) Need to evolve a Central Welfare Scheme for Traditional Fishermen

[English]

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey): Sir, this is to urge upon the Government of India to set up a welfare scheme for the traditional fishermen at all India level. Even though there are State schemes they are not enough to serve the fishermen who are often on the brink of penny. I would like to submit that during the recent period the traditional fishermen are being faced with more threats. They are often the victims of natural calamities. Licences have been given to foreign companies for deep sea fishing. This will adversely affect the traditional fishermen and at the same time will destroy our fish wealth.

I would request the Central Government to see that a National Welfare Scheme is introduced to help the traditional fishermen of the country.

(viii) Need for formation of a Special Screening Committee to scrutinise the claims for pension of all participants of Goa Freedom Struggle

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, individual Satyagraha began on 18.6.1955 for the liberation of Goa from the Portugese rule. This individual Satyagraha culminated into a mass Satyagraha on 15.8.1955. The participation of the Indian nationals in the Goan Liberation movement was unmatched and indeed unique.