

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.

Several thousands of the Indians from outside Goa participated in the struggle to liberate Goa. Large number of Satyagrahis were arrested and detained. Many suffered serious injuries and were incapacitated. It is disquieting to point out that a few hundred of Satyagrahis who were residents of Goa only have been admitted to the Freedom Fighters Samman Pension Scheme as is prevalent now. But nobody from outside Goa who participated in the liberation struggle of Goa has been admitted into Freedom Fighters Samman Pension Scheme. History has it that the Goan Liberation were achieved both by the Goanese participants as well as participants from other parts of the country. The non-sanction of pension to the participants of other States is a gross injustice to them. Taking note of the lacunae, the then Prime Minister of the country announced on April 28, 1991 at Panjim the formation of a 9-Member Special Screening Committee to scrutinise the claims for pension for all participants of Goa freedom struggle including those from outside Goa.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to remove the anomaly and set up a Screening Committee as in the case of Hyderabad Freedom Fighters and Telengana Freedom Fighters and grant pension to the eligible freedom fighters who participated in the liberation movement of Goa.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: (Dumdum) Sir, I want to add my views because I am one of those who was present when the volunteers from Calcutta were sent. *(Interruptions)* This is a very justified demand, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, we are taking up Matters Under Rule 377.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I think, Sir, all sections of the House agree to this.

(ix) Need for setting up of an Audio Visual Research Centre at Calicut University

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, Audio Visual Research Centres and Educational Media Research Centres are set up by the University Grants Commission to do media research and produce video programmes for the countrywide class room, telecast twice on weak days. Most of the video programmes are on undergraduate and graduate syllabi and are meant for formal as well as non-formal students all over the country. Recently University Grants Commission has decided to allow these centres to produce video material for telecast on Doordarshan, extension work and audio-visual support to classroom teaching.

In 1988, the Department of Mass Communications of the University of Calicut made a proposal for the setting up of an Audio Visual Research Centre and a revised proposal was submitted in 1992. University Grants Commission has finally decided to sanction two Audio Visual Research Centres during this plan period—one each in Kerala and Karnataka.

The University of Calicut has a better claim as it has on its staff, persons with proven capability in producing high quality audio-visual programmes. I urge upon the Central Government to take up this just demand of the people of Kerala, particularly from Malabar region of Kerala, with University Grants Commission to grant this project to the University of Calicut.