

[Shri P.P. Kaliaperumal]

inputs for prawn culture. As a result, the people of this area suffer from jaundice, blindness and epidemic diseases like cholera etc.

I urge upon the Central Government to prohibit conversion of agricultural lands into prawn farms and take urgent steps to arrest anthropogenic environmental disturbances in the east coast. I also request the Government to formulate a strategy to provide self-employment to educated unemployed youths by involving them in the prawn culture in the coastal wastelands of Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Need to Waive Loans upto Rs. 5,000/- taken by Scheduled Caste People from Commercial Banks in Punjab

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Phillaur): Sir, the Punjab Government made a laudable announcement that it would waive loans up to Rs. 5,000, taken from banks by Scheduled Castes. Its aim was three-fold—partly humanistic, partly economic and partly civic. The Punjab Government has made efforts to live up to the confidence reposed by these segments of the electorate by waiving loans up to Rs. 5,000 given to them by the cooperative banks and Scheduled Caste financial corporations. However, loans given by commercial banks could not be written off as these banks do not fall within the purview of the State Government.

I earnestly request the Central Government to help the State Government to fulfil its promise by arranging the waiving of loans up to Rs. 5000 taken from commercial banks by Scheduled Caste people.

(iii) Need to Improve Telephone Services in Jabalpur Division in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SARAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): Sir, I wish to invite the attention of the Government towards the fast deteriorating conditions in the telecommunication services in Jabalpur Division, M.P. Telecom Circle, especially over the past three to four months. While new telephone connections are being given and telephone network is being expanded, presumably to achieve projected targets, telephone instruments are lying ineffective.

Press is rife with reports of the troubles of subscribers, in making the telephone department respond to their complaints. Often the subscribers find themselves duped when they receive exorbitant telephone bills, which they are made to pay through their nose. PCOs provided in rural areas are not functioning properly.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to cause a thorough probe into the working of Jabalpur Telecom and ensure efficient services, while expanding the telecom network, particularly to rural areas, as per plans.

(iv) Need to sanction Adequate Funds for Expeditious Reconstruction of major bridges damaged due to Floods in Ganjam District, Orissa

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Union Ministry of Surface Transport to the inordinate delay in the repairs of six major bridges damaged by the devastating floods in Ganjam District of Orissa State in the year 1990. The major road bridges have not yet been repaired and renovated, despite the