

to these district Panchayat institutions in Maharashtra were held after a gap of thirteen years, in which nearly 1500 members were elected. Each Zilla Parishad member directly represents a territorial constituency consisting of population of about 30,000 to 40,000 people, spread over a large geographical area.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to instruct Maharashtra Telecom Circle authorities to allot one telephone connection on priority basis at any place in the district to each Zilla Parishad member and also to the elected President of the Taluk Panchayat Samiti.

MR. SPEAKER: I would recommend to the Government to consider this proposal please.

- (ii) **Need to take steps for checking increasing incidents of AIDS in Sagar districts, Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to present the following matter in this House.

AIDS was considered to be confined to urban areas alone by now but it has begun to afflict rural areas as well. This dreaded disease is spreading rapidly in many villages of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh. In the villages of Chhilgan and Karrapur 20 kilometers away Sagar, many families are infected with this disease. There are some women, who have donated their blood several times, have now disappeared after a case of AIDS has been found there.

In Sagar district, there is no F.B.I. investigation facility and no modern blood bank. So, it is my submission to the Central Government that the facility as suggested by experts be made available to Sagar district immediately. At the same time, facilities of separate medical treatment, staff and all the measures suggested for this disease so far be made available.

- (iii) **Need to provide Central assistance to the Uttar Pradesh Government for overcoming acute drinking water problem in hilly areas particularly in Pauri Chamoli districts.**

[Translation]

MAJ GENERAL (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to raise the following matter in the House:-

The drinking water problem in the hilly areas particularly in Pauri and Chamoli districts in Uttar Pradesh is becoming more and more acute. About three fourth of the total villages of these districts have been facing acute drinking water problem. People have to cover about 4-5 km of distances from hills to the valleys to fetch drinking water. It takes almost the whole day the majority of the family members of this region - including the aged persons, women and children to bring drinking water for their family and their cattle.

The main cause of the drinking water problem in my constituency-Pauri and Chamoli deep level of underground water. Though, these districts have rivers like Ganga and Yamuna in which water flows throughout the year, but these rivers are of no use to the villages at high altitudes. Pumping sets have to be installed to start a drinking water project there which requires heavy expenditure.

This problem further aggravates in these districts during summer season when all the natural resources of water get dried. during summer season when all the natural resources of water get dried up. It takes almost the whole day the people to get even one bucket of water. Due to the scanty rainfall this year drought situation is likely to prevail and unprecedented water crisis to arise during the next few months. I raised this problem in the last sessions also, however, no concrete steps have, so far, been taken by the Government.