

(iii) Need for Clearance from Forest Department for early start of Arunawati Irrigation project in Yavatmal District, Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek): Sir, seventy five per cent work on Arunawati irrigation project in Digras Taluka of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra has completed which involved an expenditure of Rs. one hundred and eight crores so far. This project would provide water to more than seventy five villages and twenty thousand hectares of land would be irrigated 95 per cent of the work on all the canals of the dam has completed and the project is on the verge of completion but the forest department is not giving clearance to collect water in the Dam by closing the gates of the dam so that water could be made available for irrigation purposes.

I request the Central Government that Forest department should grant immediate clearance for collecting water in the Dam so that Government funds are properly utilised. Due to non-clearance Rs. one hundred eight crore project is pending.

(iv) Need to enact legislation to give Hindi and other Indian Languages precedence over foreign languages in commercial advertisements

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL (Hathras): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after forty five years of Independence Indian languages have not got due recognition. It is rather ironical that though Eighteen languages have been recognised in the constitution of India, yet most the commercial and educational work in the Government offices is done in a foreign language i.e. English. However this does not mean that I oppose English language but I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the importance of

Indian languages on which Gandhiji always emphasized.

I would like to request the Central Government to formulate some law for the compulsory use of Indian languages for the commercial advertisements and on packets of consumer goods the subject of any article has to be shown in any foreign language, then it should be shown and written below Hindi and other recognised Indian languages.

Therefore, I would request the Government to formulate an agricultural policy establishes a balanced relationship between the rural and urban sectors and also ensures remunerative prices to the farmers.

15.00 hrs

(v) Need to formulate new Agriculture policy ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA (Sitapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this important matter.

Although India is known as an agricultural country yet the basic reason of the poverty of rural people is underdevelopment of agriculture. The productivity in India is one third as compared to developed nations and two third as compared to the world production. In terms of National Income farmers have contributed less than one fourth to the National Income during the last ten years and at the same time the population has also increased by one fourth. Therefore practically, the per head purchasing power to the wrong policies of the Government. In order to provide relief to the common man, more funds could have been spent on Agriculture, Rural development, Irrigation, Education and health care. While during the First Five Year Plan 49.6% of the total budgetary allocation was for

[Sh. Janardan Misra]

agriculture it declined to 27.5% during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Although the amount spent on these four heads has increased a lot, there is a sharp decline so far as the percentage is concerned. Government has been following a policy of providing foodgrains to urban consumers at subsidized prices. But it is not justified to fulfill this objective by fixing the support prices of the agricultural produce at a level which does not even help the farmers to sustain themselves.

(vi) Need for early commissioning of Electronic system in Bahrain Kumarapalayam Telephone Exchange of Periyar district in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, A new Cross Bar Telephone Exchange started functioning in Bhavani, Periyar District of Tamil Nadu from 4th February, 1993, and since then almost all the telephones have become dead resulting in hardship to the business community leading to a heavy loss. Previously when this system was installed in Namakkal exchange, the people of the area also had the same experience. From this one could infer that the Cross Bar Exchange system is not going to enhance the efficiency of the functioning of the telephone system.

It is understood that this system will function till switching over of Electronic Exchange. The general public of Bhavani and Kumarapalayam, who have been the source of major income to the Telephone Department, feel that the interim arrangement of this Cross Bar Exchange system should be given up by switching over to the old system with immediate effect. They also expect that certain measures, such as, removal of untrained staff manning the exchange, cancellation of rental charges for the period where telephones remained dead, should also

be taken.

I urge upon the Minister of communications to take steps for the switching over to the old telephone exchange system and early commissioning of the Electronic Exchange in Bhavani-Kumarapalayam Telephone Exchange.

(vii) Need for a separate railway zone at Muzaffarpur in Bihar for development of North Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRINAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue.

Bihar is the most backward state. Even there, the condition of Northern Bihar is grave. There is neither any big industry nor railway network. Every year the railway fares and freight charges are increased but no improvement is made in the system. The coaches in North Eastern Railway are in shambles. The condition of the three Tier sleeper coaches is very bad and most of them do not have proper door locks. The glass panes and windows are all broken. The steps are generally broken. The rate of food items served by railways has been increased but their quality has further deteriorated. No attention is paid to sanitation and cleanliness. Concerned officials should be asked to make surprise checks. Therefore, I demand that a separate railway zone should be constituted at Muzaffarpur in Bihar for the economy and industrial development of Northern Bihar. All infrastructural facilities required for building a Headquarters are available.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Legislative Business. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar.