

cient Monument Act made remarkable contribution and pioneer work in the field of preserving historical monuments. The work was continued by the British rulers before independence.

However, the reported news about disappearance of Yashwanth fort, a 1400-year old monument at Kagal, Maharashtra, is a disgrace to free India. It seems contractors who had secured contracts to build houses for homeless and others have eaten up into this monument by removing the material stone by stone. The theft and dismantling of this historic monument must have been carried out slowly and the connivance of the corrupt local authorities.

It is regretted that the fort which survived the onslaughts of invaders, internal conflicts and natural calamities should have been reduced to nothing within 35 years of independence. I would request the hon. Minister to institute an enquiry into the episode and take action to save the country from cultural plunder.

Archaeological Department and local authorities who are responsible for the negligence and plunder should be punished severely for the crime.

(vii) NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN WORKING OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN PATNA CITY

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पटना बिहार की राजधानी है। सन् 1981 की जनगणना के अनुसार वहां की आवादी 8 लाख से अधिक हो चुकी है। वहां के नागरिकों को आवश्यकता के अनुसार टेलीफोन नहीं मिलते। बहुत से उपभोक्ताओं के टेलीफोन के लिए आवेदन पत्र लम्बे अर्से से विचाराधीन हैं। अतः आवेदकों में असंतोष का होना स्वाभाविक है।

जिन उपभोक्ताओं को टेलीफोन मिले भी हुए हैं, उनमें से एक बड़ी संख्या में बराबर खराब रहते हैं और वे काम नहीं करते। सांसदों और विधायकों के टेलीफोन भी खराब पड़े रहते हैं। वहां का प्रतिनिधि होने के कारण, वहां के बहुत सारे लोग मुझ से इस बात की शिकायत करते रहते हैं। सरकारी अधिकारियों का बार-बार ध्यान दिलाने पर भी कोई विशेष नतीजा नहीं निकलता। लोग कहने लगे हैं कि सरकार का ध्यान केवल टेलीफोनों का रेट बढ़ाने पर केन्द्रित रहता है, उपभोक्ताओं की सुविधाओं पर नहीं।

वर्तमान लोकसभा का चुनाव हुए दो साल से अधिक हो गए। फिर भी, आश्चर्य है कि पटना के लिए टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति का गठन अब तक नहीं किया गया है। पता नहीं, क्यों? इस प्रकार की कमेटी रहने से टेलीफोन उपभोक्ताओं की शिकायतों पर विचार कर आवश्यक कार्यवाही करने की गुंजायश रहती है। परन्तु, ऐसी समिति नहीं रहने के कारण नौकरशाहों की मर्जी पर ही काम होता है। उपभोक्ताओं की आवाज नक्कारखाने में तूती की आवाज बन कर रह जाती है।

टेलीफोन की स्थिति रांची, धनबाद, जमशेदपुर, भागलपुर, मंगेर, मुजफ्फरपुर, आरा, बिहार शरीफ आदि बड़े शहरों में भी दयनीय है।

अतः संचार मंत्री से मेरा अनुरोध होगा कि वे पटना में नये एक्सचेंज शीघ्र चालू करें, वर्तमान एक्सचेंज की पुरानी मशीनों एवं अन्य सामग्रियों को बदलने की व्यवस्था करें, विचाराधीन आवेदनपत्रों के आधार पर टेलीफोन मोहैया करें, खराब टेलीफोनों को ठीक रखें तथा समय पर मरम्मत करावें, टेलीफोन सलाहकार समिति के गठन की घोषणा करें तथा बिहार के अन्य बड़े शहरों में टेलीफोन

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व्यवस्था ठीक रखें। ऐसा करके ही उपभोक्ताओं के असंतोष को दूर किया जा सकता है।

(viii) NEED FOR MORE BRANCHES OF NATIONALISED BANKS IN CHOTANAGPUR AND SANTHAL PARGANAS IN BIHAR

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai): The total Bank deposits in Bihar amounted to Rs. 1840 crores last year; keeping 43 per cent for liquidity, the rest, viz. only Rs. 1,000 crores had to be advanced to different sectors in Bihar. Out of Rs. 1,000 crores only Rs. 713 crores had been advanced, and there is still a gap of Rs. 250 crores. Instead of making something more available to Bihar from the deposits of richer States, even the defined proportion of Bihar's deposits has not been fully advanced. On the agricultural front alone, Bihar needs a crop loan of Rs. 400-500 crores per year, of which farmers are putting in Rs. 75 crores of their own.

For land development and minor irrigation (tube wells, pumping sets etc.), another Rs. 500 crores are needed. As against this, presently crop credit is available for only Rs. 24 crores per year.

In order that the advances are increased in Bihar, more bank branches will have to be opened. Before nationalization of banks, Bihar had hardly 600 bank branches in the whole of the State, which would have increased to 1478 branches up till March 1982. In Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas, where villages are situated at substantial distances from one another, this criterion of 20,000 population ought to be brought down by 10,000—12,000 to make it 8,000—10,000 population for one branch.

12.29 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1982-83—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): At the very outset, let me express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have made their contribution, by participating in the debate. I do not know whether a record number of speakers have participated and made their contribution—on this year's Budget proposals during the general discussion but the number is as many as 50. It is obvious as was commented upon by some newspapers, that the lengthiest Budget speech was delivered by the shortest Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Under the Speaker-ship of the longest man.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPA-YEE (New Delhi): That is the long and short of the Budget.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Not the longest but the tallest.

MR. SPEAKER: Amendment accepted, not the longest man, but the tallest man.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Professor is always here to correct us. Firstly, as is usual, whenever a Budget is presented, it is reviewed from various angularities; and the tendency to give an epithet to the Budget is there and there has been no exception to it. Some have suggested that this is a lack-lustre budget; to others: it is timid; to some others, it is without any direction. I will just start from the observations of my distinguished colleague. Mr. George Fernandes who is not present here. According to him, he started