

यस्तु, मैं भारत सरकार के कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान इस अत्यन्त लोक महत्व के प्रश्न पर आकर्षित करने का आग्रह करते हुए आशा करता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय भूगर्भ जल परिषद का क्षेत्रीय सर्वांग-पूर्ण कार्यालय बिहार में अविलम्ब खोलने की व्यवस्था करावेंगे।

(viii) NEED FOR OPENING PUBLIC CALL OFFICE ALL OVER THE SALEM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU.

*SHRI C. PALANIAPPAN (Salem): Under Rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance. At present there are three telephone Sub-Divisional Exchanges at Salem Telephone Division, namely Salem Telephone Exchange, Shevappettai Exchange and Meyyanur Exchange. In this Divisional Exchange, nearly 7000 telephone lines are working. For the last 4 or 5 years, there was no development in this Salem Telephone Divisional Exchange and they are giving only 200 new telephone connections per year. It seems that new telephone connections would be given only after the completion of the present expansion work. It may take minimum two years for the completion of the present expansion work.

In Salem (Tamil Nadu) several large-scale industries like Steel Plant are running for the past few years. Due to this ancillary small scale industries are also growing more in numbers. Due to lack of telephone facilities, these industries are facing problems and their further development is hampered.

Apart from this, in Salem, there is heavy increase in business activities on expansion in transportation. Till date 600 subscribers have deposited their caution amount at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per subscriber. The total amount works out to Rs. 6 lakhs. Due to the slow phase of giving new connections, we cannot expect more number of subscribers from the Salem district.

Near about hundred P.C.O.s have been disconnected in this district. The down-trodden and the poor section, sick people, passengers, lorry

drivers who are not owning telephones are suffering. At Nethimedu (Salem), the P.C.O. has been disconnected and so also from the National Hotel, a starred one. The telephone department is discarding public utility and serving commercial interest. Even then a subscriber will have to pay an amount of Rs. 4000/- It is not possible by the poor sections of the society. Moreover this amounts that only wealthy people alone can afford for a telephone.

So I request the Hon. Minister for Communications to issue orders to open public call offices all over the Salem District and action may please be taken against officers who have disconnected the P.C.Os.

12.53 hrs.

RES MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): Before you go on to the next item, I want to rise on a point of order about the items under Rule 377. I wish to bring to your notice that on a number of occasions, on some burning problems we give notices and we find that some of the issues which are very embarrassing to the Government, for instance the Baghat incident, some women members of this House had visited the place, prepared a report and submitted it to the Speaker and to the Home Minister, but they were not allowed to make an mention. Again the Soviet troops have already occupied Afghanistan and they are making some permanent facilities there. It has been reported in the press. We have given notice about it under Rule 377, but that has not been allowed. Through you; Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to communicate to the Speaker my dissatisfaction at the manner in which matters under Rule 377 are being selected.