

liability of Union Carbide for Bhopal catastrophe.

Hundreds of victims are staging a dharna before the Supreme Court seeking justice, and over more than one hundred MPs have already written to the Prime Minister for necessary action. So, I would request the Government to take appropriate steps to solve the problem.

[Translation]

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur)** : Sir, I am drawing your attention towards a serious problem. Telephone service in Rajasthan is the worst at present and thousands of telephones have been lying out of order in my constituency, Jaipur for the last several weeks. No action is taken even after lodging the complaint. Even the telephone meant for lodging the telephone complaints is lying out of order. Now where should the complainant lodge his report. The telephone of General Manager is also lying out of order. The telephones of emergency services, Police control room, telephone nos. 101 and 102, District Supply Officer and Collector—all are lying out of order. The telephones have been out of order for months together but the bills are issued for that period also. On the other hand, it was announced that the bill would be issued only for the period of normal functioning of the telephone. (*Interruptions*). Telephone Directory has not been published. As a result people to make enquiries from Telephone No. 197 which is chargeable. Thus, the service of Telephone No. 197 should be made free till the Telephone Directory is published. Telephone bill should also be issued only for the period telephone remains in working order. One of my submissions is that electronic system should be introduced for the telephone Nos. with six or seven digits so that telephone system in Rajasthan in general and Jaipur in particular could be immediately improved. If no improvement is brought about I, along with telephone subscribers, of Jaipur would stage Dharna or observe hunger strike in front of the office of District Telephones Officer or the office of the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur)** : There is a great need of constructing a new rail line from Ghat Railway Station to Mau Junction in Gazipur district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. It would not impose much burden on the Government. Because the distance between Ghat Station and Mau Junction is merely 40 Kms. The area where new rail line is to be constructed falls under the jurisdiction of Gazipur Tehsil and 'Chakbandi' is expected to be done soon in this area.

If Railway Ministry ask for land for constructing this new rail line, the Chakbandi Department will certainly provide land for the purpose. Railway Ministry will not have to pay the compensation for the land... (*Interruptions*) Similarly, there is also a great need to construct a railway bridge between Tari Ghat Station and Ghat Station on the river Ganga. In the absence of railway bridge over the Ganga river, not only Gazipur is divided into two parts, but also the passengers have to travel on foot from Tari Ghat or they have to travel via Varanasi to reach Gazipur Headquarters. If a railway bridge is constructed over the Ganga river, the trains will reach direct upto Ghazipur Headquarters. Besides, Ghazipur will also be linked directly with other parts of the country.

**SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada)** : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, the Home Minister is present here. I would like to draw your attention towards a question concerning human life. We have already discussed the practice of 'Sati' in this House. It is a good thing that yesterday Uma Bharati raised the issue of female foeticide. I would like to draw your attention towards a very painful practice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a village Sathewadi in Maharashtra where a couple was not blessed with a female child. They got a male child after offering prayers to the village god Masoba. They had vowed to sacrifice their first child, at the alter of village god Masoba. But the male child was not sacrificed as it was considered that he would protect the lineage. After two years, a female child was born in the family and that female child was killed. Parents complained that other people had killed

her. One can imagine the extent to which superstition and cruelty can go. Parent don't kill their male child for the purpose of sacrifice, but wait for the birth of a female child for the purpose. It has come in the newspaper that after the arrest, Sumitra and Babu admitted the crime. They recounted the gory tale to the police. On the night of July 9, Sumitra clasped the girl's hands and legs and Babu stifled the nose and mouth. Later they went to the Masoba temple, removed the child's clothes and hid the body in the bushes.

[Translation]

This act is more abominable, inhuman and condemnable than Sati. The girl's parents killed her at the Masoda temple to offer her to the deity. They have been arrested, but I don't want to go in further details.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, that village has a total population of 400 and out of them, only two per cent are educated. Incidents of medieval barbarity and sin are taking place even after 44 years of independence. I am saying this before the House because the hon. Home Minister is present here. I hope that he will certainly look into this incident. We are lacking something somewhere in our day-to-day life., that we have not been able so far to prolifer modern education to crores of people in our country. It has become the psyche of some people that there is nothing wrong in killing a girl child and sacrifice her. Something should be done to educate the villagers against this psyche so that in future, no girl is killed by her parents. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister, of this House and of the countrymen to it. I hope that the hon. Home Minister will certainly pay attention to it.

[English]

**SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) :** Sir, the All India Bank Officers' Association, which has a total membership of two and half lakhs, is going to strike work on the 21st of this month. This is a very serious matter. The main reason for the proposed strike is conflict between the Syndicate Bank Officers' Association and the Bank. The main problems are vindictive transfers of the office-bearers of the Association against accepted norms,

unilateral changes in the conditions of service of the officers to their detriment, large scale victimisation and disproportionate punishments meted out to the officers for trade union activity and blatant interference in the affairs of the Association. If my information is correct, instructions have been given by the Ministry of Finance to have a talk with the officers. But the management is very adamant and arrogant and they are not even willing for a talk. On the 21st of this month the entire banking system is going to be paralysed. You can understand the damage that will be caused to the economy of this country, if the proposed strike takes place. There are allegations that the Chairman of this particular Bank has swindled crores of rupees for his personal use. I request that the officers of proved misbehaviour should have no quarter in public service.

I plead with the Minister to give direction to the Chairman and the Officers of the Syndicate Bank to negotiate with the Union and to arrive at a settlement and the proposed strike is averted. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Chemicals. Sir, it is happening that major drug companies are cutting down production and procurement of vital drugs due to their unviability.

[English]

Industry sources point out that quite a few vital drugs will be in severe short supply in the days to come unless some relief is provided quickly. A sharp increase in costs of imported intermediates and chemicals has contributed to the upswing in input costs. If the status quo is maintained, essential drugs like Chloramphenicol, Rifampicin, Metronidazole, Parazinamide, Amoxicillin will soon disappear from the market. The costs of manufacture of these drugs is far above the Government notified prices. For example, for Rifampicin the actual costs work out to nearly Rs. 5-6 thousand