

[श्रीमति उषा वर्मा]

प्रायः सदैव ही गड़बड़ रहते हैं जिससे यहां के नागरिकों को टेलीफोन या ट्रंक काल करने में बड़ी कठिनाई ही नहीं, वरन् निराश होना पड़ता है। इसके कारण बहुत से उपभोक्ताओं ने अपने कनेक्शन कटवा दिये हैं एवं नए उपभोक्ता नए कनेक्शन लेने से कतराते हैं। प्रायः यह सुनने में आता है कि इन एक्सचेंजों की मशीनें पुरानी होने के कारण काम नहीं करती हैं। इसके अलावा जनपद में जितने पी सी ओ खोले गये हैं वह दिखावा मात्र हैं क्योंकि शायद ही कोई पी सी ओ कमी कार्य करने योग्य रहा हो जिस से सार्वजनिक सम्पत्ति का दुरुपयोग होता है।

अतः मैं संचार मंत्री महोदय से सानुरोध निवेदन करती हूँ कि जनपद में टेलीफोन की स्थिति को जनहित में शीघ्र सुधार करने की कृपा करें।

(xiii) NEED FOR TAKING EFFECTIVE STEPS FOR PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF FORESTS IN VIDARBHA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA.

SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHOUDHARI (Amravati) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, afforestation, no doubt, becomes a national movement; but the accompanying measures to prevent the destruction of trees are not being taken. Several species of flora and fauna which are responsible for maintaining the ecological balance are being destroyed;

Effective measures are not being taken to prevent destruction of trees which is wanton in many places. A large scale destruction of forests had been going on in Maharashtra particularly in Vidarbha Region. This is being indulged in stealthily by several gangs in the forests and on the

national highways; and the wood obtained from the trees is sold at high profit by them. Smuggling of the wood from the destroyed trees is also going on across the State borders to places where it would fetch high prices.

Vidarbha region is noted for its abundance in the production of oranges which are exported in large quantities to neighbouring areas. For export purposes oranges are to be packed in wooden boxes. It has been found that mango wood is suitable for making good boxes for the purpose. What is happening is that mango trees from all over the State of Maharashtra are destroyed to provide wood for preparing packing boxes for oranges.

While the felling of trees is going on unchecked, Adivasis living in the forest and other interior regions who depend for their livelihood on the collection and selling of forest grass and dried up twigs available in the forests, are being subjected to all sorts of difficulties like obtaining licences for their profession. Such impediments placed on them should be removed and they should be allowed to carry on their occupation without any fear.

Preservation and protection of trees, whether they are mango trees or other shade-giving trees, whether they are in forests or on the national highways, is of urgent importance and necessary instructions in the matter should be given by the Government of India to the State Governments. A Central Force like the Industrial Security Force and the Border Security Force should be set up to keep a vigil on smugglers and others who indulge in the destruction of forests for making huge profits. The Centre should also provide necessary funds to the States for this purpose.