

13.49 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) NEED TO ESTABLISH AN AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT JUNAGARH, GUJARAT.

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL (Junagarh): Junagarh telephone exchange is the biggest man-operated in the country. There are more than 3,000 lines in the Exchange. The telephone machinery and the boards are established at three different sites in a building which is on hire-basis. There is a great rush on telephone exchange. Sometimes it takes long time to get reply from the operator. Sometimes more than two lines are inter-connected and due to that the privacy cannot be maintained. There was a proposal for construction of a new building and erection of a new auto-telephone exchange in Junagarh by 1982. Now the building is ready and awaiting for the machinery for new auto-telephone exchange. I request the Hon. Minister for Communications to arrange for establishment of the auto-telephone exchange at Junagarh immediately to avoid inconvenience to the people of Junagarh.

(ii) NEED TO ESTABLISH A SUPER THERMAL POWER STATION AT TALCHER IN ORISSA.

*SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagatsinghpur): The power crisis in Orissa continues due to the delay in the establishment of a super-thermal power station at Talcher. Orissa was previously a surplus State in power generation. But due to the programme of rapid industrialization taken up by the Government, a large number of large and medium industries are coming up in the State which led to shortage of power at present. Orissa grid will have a short-fall of at least 12,000 MW of firm capacity, taking into consideration all projects in the pipeline during this period. The only solution to tide over this difficulty is a super-thermal project at Talcher in Orissa, for which feasibility report has been prepared by NTPC, and site has been selected. But it

is a matter of regret that the proposal has not been implemented so far.

Constraints of funds will never be a problem, as World Bank and some other international financial institutions are offering aid for implementing such a type of project. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to make necessary arrangement of funds and expedite the establishment of super-thermal power station at Talcher.

(iii) DROUGHT IN PALGHAT DISTRICT OF KERALA

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Palghat district, the granary of Kerala, is in the grip of an unprecedented drought. The failure of monsoon this year has played ducks and drakes with the economy of this district. Rainfall during 1982-83 was 35 per cent to 40 per cent less than normal rainfall. This has resulted in the storage capacity of Malampuzha, Mangalaur and Pothundy dams being reduced to 70 per cent to nil in Meenkara, Chuttiyar and Walayar dams. 62 villages which are affected by drought, have been declared drought-affected by the Board of Revenue. 19 villages of Alathur, Mannarghat and Palghat talukas have also been recommended as drought-affected areas. These villages constitute about 60 per cent of the district.

The main crops affected are paddy, sugarcane, groundnut and cotton. Paddy crops in 500 hectares in full, and 7,000 hectares partially, have been affected by drought. The total loss during *khari* season is estimated to be about 12,500 MT valued at Rs. 250 lakhs. Similarly, the loss of crops during the *rabi* season is estimated to be about 25,300 MT valued at Rs. 506 lakhs.

The situation in Palghat is indeed frightening, as there is acute shortage of drinking water for human beings as well as for animals. This situation, if continued, will cause epidemics and loss of lives.

In the circumstances, considering the urgency of the problem, the Government

*The Original speech was delivered in Oriya.

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