

व जनपदों की अपेक्षा की गई। यह भी ध्यान नहीं रखा गया कि इसके बीच के लोगों को, जो केन्द्र से अधिक दूरी पर पड़ेंगे, इस सुविधा को प्राप्त करने में कितनी कठिनाई होगी।

सीतापुर नगर से लखनऊ दूरदर्शन केन्द्र लगभग 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है तथा नैनीताल 300 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर होगा। बरेली केन्द्र भी सीतापुर से 150 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सीतापुर में दूरदर्शन केन्द्र स्थापित करने से लखीमपुर, खीरी, हरदोई तथा इन जनपदों के अनेक नगरों एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को सुविधापूर्वक दूरदर्शन संचार साधन के उपयोग के अवसर मिलते। सीतापुर को अभी तक उपेक्षित रखा गया है। शाहजहांपुर में केन्द्र खुल गया है। वह भी सीतापुर से करीब 85 किलोमीटर है।

मेरी सरकार से मांग है कि दूरदर्शन केन्द्र स्थापित करते समय इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाए कि दो अथवा तीन केन्द्रों के बीच की दूरी 60, 70 किलोमीटर से अधिक न हो तथा लखनऊ, बरेली और नैनीताल के केन्द्रों का फासला देखते हुए सीतापुर में एक दूरदर्शन केन्द्र शीघ्र ही स्थापित किया जाए।

(ix) Prescribing a time limit for converting letters of intent into industrial licences

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore): During the period 1980 to 1983, 3119 letters of intent had been issued by the Government of India, out of which 1613 had been converted into industrial licences. This makes it clear that the remaining 1506 letters of intent were

not converted into industrial licences due to some reason or the other. In Tamil Nadu, during the above period only 131 industrial licences were taken against 203 letters of intent obtained.

There is a genuine grievance of several intending entrepreneurs that in order to stall them from starting industrial ventures some vested interests corner the letters of intent. The above figures give substance to their contention.

It is requested that a time limit should be prescribed for converting letters of intent into industrial licences. Beyond this time-limit the letters of intent pending conversion should be repealed and fresh letters of intent should be issued to others.

(x) Making adequate funds available to Maharashtra government for structural and repair works to the buildings constructed by Maharashtra Housing Board

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE (Bombay North Central): The exodus of population from rural areas to the cities like Bombay and Delhi has added to the housing problem of the cities. Bombay city is already at the point of bursting in the seams.

In spite of various plans like HUDCO and slum improvement scheme, the gravity of the problem is not yet reduced. Government efforts to accommodate people in the houses constructed by State Housing Boards or development authorities have not met with success.

It is a known fact that the Housing Boards and D.D.A. use substandard and inferior material in their construction. The negligence on the part of the Housing Boards in the maintenance and repairs to the buildings on the plea of paucity of funds has only added to the

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misery of the residents. In Bombay people are living in death trap due to the dilapidated conditions of the buildings which are collapsing one after the other.

In view of the urgency of the situation, I would request the Government to make adequate funds available to the Maharashtra State Government to undertake structural as well as other repairs to the buildings.

(xi) Need to improve functioning of telephones in West Bengal, particularly in Calcutta

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The telephone system in Calcutta as well as in other districts of West Bengal is in a precarious condition. As such it was very bad, but after the heavy rains in June thousands of telephones have gone out of order most of which have not yet been repaired. If anybody tries to contact Panskura or Tamluk of Midinapur district from Calcutta through trunk service, not even one in a thousand calls materialises. Some time back some citizens of Calcutta held a condolence meeting to mark the death of Calcutta telephones, and that was the most symbolic presentation of the state of affairs. While the telephones remain unusable the subscribers are sent regular bills, sometimes totally fictitious, and the subscribers have to pay. The telephones which are supposed to be functioning are also often rendered useless because the numbers intended to be contacted are often not available. Since telephone is not a decoration but an imperative means of communication, I draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to this sad state of affairs and demand urgent and efficient measures to

improve the telephone system of the whole of West Bengal including that of Calcutta.

(xii) Taking over of Birla Mills, Delhi as recommended by Delhi Metropolitan Council.

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYYA (Burdwan) : I wish to draw the attention the Government to the situation in Birla Mills, Delhi. The management of the mill has illegally shut down the Weaving and related departments of the mill adversely affecting the livelihood of 2,500 workers.

The Delhi Metropolitan Council unanimously passed a resolution earlier this year recommending takeover of the mill. The management has refused to reopen the Weaving department.

The Lt. Governor has also given the Labour Commissioner the necessary sanction to prosecute the management.

However, not only has the management refused to stop its illegal practice it is now refusing work to permanent workers of the other departments also.

There are over 5,000 workers on the muster rolls. To save them and their families from starvation the Central Government should immediately intervene and takeover the mill as recommended by the Metropolitan Council.