

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस का उत्तर भी आ चुका है ।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : गन्ने की कमत के भुगतान पर तो हर वक्त विचार होता रहता है, इस का कीमत से कोई ताल्लु नहीं है । बुगर मिलज एसोसियेशन ने मांग की है कि गन्ने का भाव 15 रुपये किया जाय, लेकिन गन्ने के भाव का बेसिज रिकवरी होता है, उस पर ही भाव तय किया जा सकता है, इस से बेहतर कोई दूसरा बेसिज नहीं हो सकता ।

माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा कि क्या हम भुगतान वक्त पर कराने की बात करेगे, उस के लिये कायदा बना हुआ है । जो पिछला बकाया है उस का ज्यादा से ज्यादा भुगतान हम करा चुके हैं और फिर भी जो बाकी है उस का भी जल्द कराने के लिये जोर दे रहे हैं । मैंने पहले भी इस हाउस में कहा है कि इस मामले में काफ़ी सख्ती की जा रही है और जितना टोटल पेमेन्ट इस साल में हुआ है, उस के अनुसार इस साल के अन्दर सिर्फ 2 फीसदी ही बाकी रहा है और इतना कम पहले कभी बाकी नहीं रहा है ।

Conversion of Telephone Exchange at Navsari into Auto-Exchange

*820. SHRI C. D. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to convert Navsari (Distt. Bulsar, Gujarat) Telephone Exchange into Auto-Exchange; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) It is the objective of the P&T Department to automatise all large manual exchanges including Navsari

as early as availability of financial and material resources permits Detailed Plans and Project for an automatic exchange at Navsari will be prepared after a site for a new building is available.

(b) A suitable plot of land for an automataic exchange building has been selected and action for its acquisition is in progress.

SHRI C. D. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I submit that the very perusal of the reply does not reflect the correct picture. It is a very sorry state of affairs that the information supplied by the hon. Minister is not correct. As for as Navsari is concerned, it is the biggest city in Bulsar District. Small cities like Amalsad, Anaval and Basada have been provided with Auto-Exchanges whereas Navsari for the last 35 years, despite the demand, has been equipped with the old central battery multi-purpose system. I would like to know from the hon. Minister—there was a scheme formulated some time back called 'National Switching Plant Scheme'—whether that scheme is still in existence and being implemented; and whether Navsari city is being covered by the plant. Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to how his reply is incorrect. Part (b) of his reply says: "A suitable plot of land for an automatic exchange building has been selected and action for its acquisition is in progress." This reply is so incorrect that let the hon. Minister inform us whether any acquisition proceedings have been commenced, leave aside the award under section 11; but whether any notification under sections 4 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act has been issued. I also put the question to the hon. Minister. Whether the survey number can be given by him.

MR. SPEAKER: You can put a pointed question.

SHRI C. D. PATEL: My pointed question is whether survey number and the proceedings are there or not.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: Nothing would give me more pleasure than to keep an Auto-Exchange at Navsari straightway, as far as possible. But there are certain limitations. This Navsari is at present served by manual exchanges of 1680 equipped capacity with 1642 working connections and a waiting list of 511 as on 31-3-80. There are certain difficulties for going in for the Auto-Exchange, because, first of all, we have to get the land for the building to be constructed. (2) We have to make sure that we get the Auto-Exchange equipment. Now, so far as the project report for this Auto-Exchange is concerned, so many things are involved. The first thing is about the land. The hon. member has said that the question of acquisition of land is taking a lot of time. I think the hon. Member should try to persuade the State Government to see that the land is available as early as possible. An action is in hand to acquire a piece of land at Navsari. For acquiring a piece of land at Navsari, we are having negotiations through S. B. Garua College Trust. This College is prepared to spare an area of about 6 acres of land; and as and when this is available, we will go ahead. So far as this Auto-Exchange is concerned, it takes quite some time; and it has got to be planned; and in fact, the present production capacity of supply from ITI is hardly sufficient to cater to the expansion requirement for the existing Auto-Exchanges. I can assure the hon. member that if everything goes well, then, tentatively it is proposed to allot equipment from a new cross bar factory at Rai Bareilly in 1984-85 programme. If by that time everything goes well, then we will commission the exchanges in 1986.

Prostitution

*821. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some States in the country where prostitution is in practice;

(b) whether Government have framed any scheme to deal with this serious threat which is responsible for many ill and problems of the society; and

(c) if so, what action Government have decided to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Government of India enacted the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 which has been in force all over the country, except Sikkim, since 1958.

2. The Act prohibits prostitution in its commercialised form. It also prohibits prostitution in any form in, or in the vicinity of, a public place or in any area, when so notified under section 7 of the Act. The problem of prostitution as a complex and deep rooted social evil is nevertheless known to persist in many places, particularly in cities.

3. The enforcement of this Act is the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Act has been amended recently with a view to removing the difficulties and lacunae experienced by implementing agencies. The Government of India also assists voluntary organisations to undertake measures against prostitution by establishment of Short Stay Homes.

4. This Act also provides for setting up of protective homes, and corrective Institutions for the care, protection, training and rehabilitation of women and girls rescued from the vice of prostitution.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The hon. Minister in his statement has stated that in spite of the best efforts of the