

[Sh. V.N. Sharma]

people. The telephones were installed in Charkhari Nagar in 1965. Now since 1985 neither the telephones are in working order nor the bills are deposited. Similarly, the telephone system is in real bad shape in Srinagar - Raath - Kulpahad - Kharela and Modaha Municipalities. Telephone link cannot be established even within these cities. The district headquarter does not have direct link within the State nor with other parts of the country. I, therefore, urge upon the Centre to pay immediate attention to it.

**(v) Need to convert Sitapur -
Burhwal metre gauge line into
broad gauge line**

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (Sitapur): Sir, the backwardness of Eastern Uttar Pradesh is well known. The Ashok Mehta Committee was constituted in 1964 to find out the reasons behind the backwardness and it had categorically stated that the metre-gauge line in this area is responsible for it to a great extent. The entire area is land locked island. The Centre had approved gauge conversion of about 120 kilometre track in 1977 between Varanasi and Bhatni. But even after that, the problem remains as it is. Consequently, this area does not have free flow of traffic with other parts of the country and the backwardness remains. Same is true of Sitapur district where no industry or Public Sector Undertaking could be set up because of each of transportation facility I think that if Sitapur-Burhwal metre-gauge line is converted into broadgauge, Sitapur will have direct link with Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow, Delhi and other parts of the country. This would help in removing the backwardness of the area.

Therefore, I demand that Sitapur-Burhwal metre gauge railway line be converted into broad gauge in public interest without any delay.

(vi) Need for early sanction of the

**plan for setting up a sugar mill
in Dhanaha, Bihar**

SHRI MAHENDRA BAITHA (Bagaha): Sir, the Dhanaha, legislative constituency area falls under the Bagaha Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar, Gandak river is a divider between Dhanaha Constituency area and district of Western Champaran and to the West of this area lies Padrauna area. The land of this area is fertile to produce sugarcane only. About 50 lakh quintals of sugarcane is produced here. As there is no sugar mill in the area, the farmers are forced to sell their sugarcane to Khandsari mill owners at Rs. 18-20 per quintal whereas the rate of sugar cane in Bihar is Rs. 41.50 p.per quintal. The State Government of Bihar had sent a proposal for setting up a sugar mill at Tamukhuha Tar about four to five years back but no action has been taken on it so far. Consequently, the farmers of Dhanaha are facing lot of financial hardships.

Therefore, I would urge the Central Government to sanction the proposed sugar mill in Dhanaha area so that the farmers are benefited.

**(vii) Need to Start manufacturing
railway wagons and Coaches
in Jamalpur Railway Workshop**

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Mongyer): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to a matter of urgent Public importance. Before Independence there were 22000 workers in the Jamalpur Railway Workshop. But today there are only 12000 workers in the factory. Out of 30 workshops of this factory, 10 have remained idle, other 10 do not have sufficient workload whereas the rest 8 are just pulling on. Earlier 30 steam engines were manufactured there but today only 10 are being manufactured. By 1992 the production of steam engines would stop. What would then happen to this giant factory and the workers that are engaged there? Will the workers be transferred elsewhere?

Still there are machines worth hundred

[Sh. Brahma Nand Mandal]

crores of rupees in this factory which can be put to use. It has been said that Rs. 70 crores would be spent on its modernisation but the work has not so far been undertaken.

Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister and the Centre to start manufacturing wagons and coaches in Jamalpur factory and thereby safeguard the interest of the country.

(viii) Need to reopen the closed
Katihar Jute Mill in Bihar

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a matter of urgent Public importance. For want of Jute supply, the Katihar Jute Mill located at Katihar is lying closed for the last four years. Even the workers are not being paid wages due to non-operation of the mill. It has brought them and their families on the verge of starvation. The Government has neither given any compensation to the dependents of the deceased workers who have died of starvation nor has taken any step to protect the life of workers and their families who are struggling in the face of starvation.

The previous Government had taken a decision to hand over this mill to National Manufacturer's Corporation on lease basis and provide it financial assistance but the present Government has not taken any action in this regard.

I therefore, urge upon the Central Government to revive the closed Katihar Jute Mill at the earliest.

13.22 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1991-92 (Contd.)

Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Food
and
Ministry of Rural Development

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands

for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Item Nos. 11 to 13 together.

Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji Kshirsagar to continue her speech.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I was saying yesterday irrigation and power supply are the basic inputs of agriculture. 70% of land in our country is unirrigated. That is why agricultural production from this land is quite less compared to irrigated land. If irrigation is provided the agricultural production can go up by 3 to 4% and it is possible to have 3 or 4 crops in a year. In Maharashtra only 12% of land is under irrigation, the main sources being canals and wells. As the rain fall has come down, the water table has gone down. It is necessary that more area should be brought under irrigation. Many irrigation projects recommended by Govt. of Maharashtra are not being completed because of paucity of funds. If these projects are not completed in time, the project cost will go up by 8 to 10%. For getting necessary funds for irrigation projects, I suggest that funds can be raised by getting loans from cooperative societies or by issuing bonds for this purpose. Adequate funds should be raised without any delay. We should ensure that atleast 70% of land should come under irrigation.

Every year lot of rain water is wasted. It should be restored and used for cultivation. If we take up such a scheme, lakhs of hectares of land would be irrigated and it would enhance agricultural production. The usual reply which the Govt. gives is paucity of resources. But since irrigation is crucial for agricultural development, we should make the resources available and implement a scheme for storing rain water for the purpose of agriculture.

Farmers should be supplied seeds, pesticides and fertilizers well in time. The Banks must advance loans to farmers before sowing season. Certified and good quality seeds and pesticides alone should