

[Sh. Bhawani Lal Verma]

Eastern Coal fields to open a medical hospital with the cost of 50 lakh rupees. Therefore, the establishment of medical college by the integrated means of the South-Eastern coal fields and the Madhya Pradesh Government will prove to be an easy project.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to establish a medical college at Bilaspur at the earliest.

- (II) **Need to look into the demands of Anganwadi Workers**

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Sir, there are about two lakh Anganwadi works in various States in the country, under the Centrally sponsored Integrated Child Development Scheme. The Anganwadi workers and helpers are paid honorarium ranging from Rs. 225/- to Rs. 375/- per month depending upon their qualifications and length of service and Rs. 110/- for the helpers. This amount is not at all sufficient for their livelihood. Thus, they are underpaid vis-a-vis the work done by them.

The Anganwadi workers and helpers throughout the country have come to Delhi and have staged a dharna/procession for acceptance of their demands, viz., to enhance the honorarium, to treat them as Government servants and to extend the pay benefits as applicable to regular Government employees to provide promotional opportunities and pensionary benefits.

Some State Governments have recommended for increase in honorarium and acceptance of some of their other demands. I request the Central Government to look into it.

Sir, the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee is here. She can give suggestions to find a solution.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): The Demands for Grants discussion is coming. He can raise the point there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it is a very important point that Mr. Oscar Fernandes has raised.

- (III) **Need for early setting up of electronic telephone exchange at Haridwar, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Badaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the condition of the telephone exchange in Haridwar is very poor. The telephones are generally out of order. Though the Kumbh Mela has started and the electronics exchange building has been completed yet the electronics telephone exchange could not have been started. In this regard letters were written to the concerned minister and a personal request was also made to him.

The condition of the telephones is so poor that out of 71 telephones allotted to the police, 56 are not working, Lakhs, of people, from far and wide are coming there due to Kumbh Mela. That is a religious place which always attracts the people throughout the year. But at present in the absence of adequate telephone facilities the travellers are facing a lot of difficulties.

Keeping in mind the growing terrorism and the protection and convenience of the visitors, there is an urgent need to start the electronics telephone exchange immediately. An immediate step should be taken in this regard to avoid any terrorist mishap and accident.