

Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter under rule 377. The people of the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, specially, Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Almorah and Pithoragarh have to depend on jungles for woods to cook food. But due to the provisions of the Forest Act and the policy to protect the environment and the ban on cutting of trees, the people of these districts are not getting fire woods to cook their food and they are facing great difficulties. The people of this area have been making demand for cooking gas connections for a long time with a view to solve this problem because it is the only alternative of the firewood. Kerosene and hard coal is also not available in these area.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that more and more new gas connections should be given in these areas, specially in the Pauri and Chamoli districts and keeping in view the geographical situation of these areas it is necessary that a gas agency should be opened in every development block there and every consumer should be given two gas cylinders, i.e. D.B.C. and all those who are in the waiting list should be provided gas connection immediately.

- (iv) **Need to set up an electronic telephone exchange at Chara and Atrauli, Uttar Pradesh with STD facility.**

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWALE (Hathras): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House on the following subject under rule 377.

The condition of Chara and Atrauli telephone exchanges under Hathras constituency is very miserable due to which the businessmen and the common man find it difficult to maintain links through telephone. Keeping in view, the miserable conditions of the above said telephone exchanges, the Government had assured to provide S.T.D.

facility and convert these exchanges into electronic exchanges during the year 1991-92 but the position has not yet changed due to which the industrialists and the businessmen are finding it inconvenient to have necessary and relevant informations through telephone at times. Most of the telephone lines remain out of order and the people of all sections are waiting for long for their repair.

Therefore, my submission to the Government is that S.T.D facility should be provided to the Charra and Atrauli telephone exchanges and these exchanges be converted into electronic telephone exchanges with a view to provide the most modern facility to the people of those areas.

- (v) **Need to declare the whole country as drought affected and provide relief to the people affected by drought.**

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salem-pur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matters under the rule 377. The farmers are facing great difficulties due to severe drought conditions. The central and the Eastern parts of the country are much affected. There is a great anxiety among the farmers, as the monsoon has not activated even three weeks after the expected time. Kharif crop has not been sown due to the scarcity of water. The crops standing in the fields are drying up due to the shortage of water, the canals are dry, the tubewells are lying out of order and the drains are in broken condition. The irregular supply and load shedding has affected the agriculture adversely in many states. The pumping sets are lying idle in many States of the Northern India due to the shortage of diesel. The condition has deteriorated to this extent that due to the low Kharif production most of the small and marginal farmers and the agricultural labourers will come on the verge of starvation. There is no fodder for the cattle as fodder crops have dried up. In many

[Sh. Hari Kewal Prasad]

States Cattle have died. More than 75% of the Government tube wells are lying out of order in Uttar Pradesh. There is no water in the canals and the supply of electricity and diesel is paralysed. The cash crop of the biggest sugarcane producing State of the country is drying up in the absence of irrigation facility.

Therefore, I demand that the Government should declare the whole of the country as drought affected. Arrangements should be made to provide the water. The tubewells that are lying out of order and the drains that are lying damaged should be got repaired. The rural areas should be supplied electricity for atleast 20 hours in a day and arrangements should be made to supply diesel to these areas. The test work should be started in the rural areas. The arrangements should be made to ensure adequate supply of fodder for the cattle in these areas and all the outstanding recoveries should be postponed.

- (iv) **Need to direct Andhra Pradesh Government not to dispossess the people of the Land purchased by them for pisciculture in Coastal districts in Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRISOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Thousand of hectares of land adjoining Bay of Bengal in coastal Andhra Districts such as Krishina, Guntur, Nellore, West and East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Prakasam etc., are best suited for inland fish and brackfish water shrimp culture. These lands are not so much suited to raise agricultural crops. So, the farmers in these areas have taken up preparing ponds, tanks for fish and prawn culture. Some people who are very much interested in this pisci-culture have purchased

some lands from the encroachers and invested money in preparing the tanks. Now the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is trying to dispossess these present occupants and give away thousands of acres of land to big moneyed people. Most of the local people belong to weaker sections such as fishermen, Scheduled Castes, Backward Castes and economically backward class. The local revenue authorities are trying to physically remove these poor persons from their sites. Due to this serious agitation is going on. I urge upon the Union Government to advise the State Government not to harm the present occupants who have invested a lot in the Pisci culture and regularise the encroachments. I also urge upon the Union Government to allocate more funds to Marine products Development Authority to help more number of persons to take up shrimp culture in a scientific manner and to issue suitable instructions to the commercial banks to advance loans to the entrepreneurs without much delay.

- (vii) **Need to declare 9th August, the birthday of Padmashri S. Ranganatha as National Library Day.**

SHRIPAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, in order to check the decline in the reading habits, particularly amongst the students who today depend upon cheap guides on their course of study, it is desirable that we earmark and celebrate one working day as the National Library Day in the country. Such a day should not be a holiday. It should rather be dedicated to the popularisation of libraries by holding quiz competitions, seminars and exhibitions etc. All this can be done without incurring any additional expenditure.

The birthday of Padmashri Shri S. Ranganathan, father of Library movement in the country falls on 9th August. This day has immense historical importance and is being