

[Shri Jujhar Singh]

communication Department on the small and big Telephone Exchanges in Kota and Jhalawar district of Rajasthan is very unsatisfactory.

There have been constant complaints from telephone consumers of Jhalawar town, Jhalapatnam Ramgarj Mani, Bhawani-Mandi, Sangod and other small places to the senior officers and even to the Minister of Telecommunication to improve the working efficiency of the Department, but nothing substantial has been achieved so far. The behaviour of the operators and the local officers towards telephone consumers is rude and irresponsible and the complaints of wrong billing and false billing are also not uncommon.

Because of the behaviour of the staff and the poor quality of equipment at most of these places, the trunk calls do not mature for days together. The percentage of maturity of calls at some places is less than 20 for days together. It is at no time convincingly satisfactory.

12.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the chair]

It is requested that the functioning of the Telecommunication system in Kota and Jhalawar districts of Rajasthan should be improved without further delay.

[Translation]

- (ii) Demand for setting up a chemical based fertilizer factory in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Even after so many years of independence, not a single medium or heavy industry has been set up in the public or the private sector in district Tikamgarh of Madhya Pradesh, which is a no-industry district. The pipe-line of natural gas from Guna to the districts of Uttar Pradesh is being laid through Tikamgarh. In view thereof, a chemical fertilizer factory or some other chemical factory should be set up in this backward and

predominantly agricultural area so as to remove its backwardness and solve the problem of unemployment. I, therefore, request the hon. Industry Minister to set up the above mentioned industry there.

[English]

- (iii) Demand for lifting ban on filling up of existing vacancies and the creation of new posts in the P&T Department.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR(Hamirpur) : Sir, the continued ban on the filling up of existing vacancies and the creation of new posts since 1985 has become a source of extreme hardship to temporary and *ad hoc* employees and the prospective candidates for employment likely to cross the maximum age limit of recruitment. It is also proving counter-productive. Over ten thousand reserved trained Pool employees in Posts and Telecommunication Departments are agitated on this score, to give just one instance. Moreover, there is a loss of revenue due to the non-availability of trained staff. A number of new Telephone Exchanges which have already been installed cannot be commissioned for want of staff. Thousands of sanctioned Branch Post Offices cannot be opened even though there were targets in the Sixth Five-Year Plan for this purpose.

I, therefore, request the Union Government, particularly the Minister of Finance, to lift the ban totally or relax it so that the P & T Departments are exempted from its operation as was done in the case of the ban imposed during the term of the Fifth Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

- (iv) Demand for making registration of marriages obligatory.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the House to the need to make registration of marriages obligatory by treating it as a contract.

Religion has an important place in our country. The parents of the bride regard