

[Shri Jai Prakash Agrawal]

The recent hike in the petrol rates has resulted in the steep price increase of all items in the market. The poor man is affected in two ways by this increase in electricity rates. On the one hand the people will have to make payment of electricity bill at enhanced rates and secondly they will also have to face the problem of high prices due to rise in electricity rates.

The increase in electricity rates will adversely affect the small industrial units in particular which will get electricity at 75 paise per unit. This sudden steep increase in electricity rates is contrary to our industrial policy of providing encouragement to small units. The electronic industry will also be affected adversely by this increase. Particularly in the agricultural sector, there would be despondency among agriculturists due to this increase in power rates.

I would, therefore, urge the hon. Energy Minister to give instructions to the DESU to seriously consider the above points before this increase is actually effected.

[English]

(v) Need to provide a Railway level crossing and connecting roads in Jalla area near Patna

SHRI C.P. THAKUR (Patna): Jalla area near Patna almost submerged in water during the rainy season for three months. The only exit from that area is a road which passes under a railway bridge near Bankaghat railway station. The railway is going to reinforce that bridge by making new pillars. That will almost completely obstruct the road and will affect the existence of about 30 thousand people residing in 40 villages. They will be put to extreme hardship. If a railway level crossing is made, it will serve the purpose. The Central Government should direct the Railway to make a level crossing and the State Government should be asked to make connecting roads.

[Translation]

(vi) Provision of special funds to states in the 7th Plan for providing medical facilities in Villages

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards lack of medical facilities in the rural areas. At present 5464 vacancies of doctors are lying vacant in the rural areas. In many Primary Health Centres, doctors have not been posted. One Primary Health Centre is required to be opened for a population of 30,000 in the plains and for a population of 20,000 in the hilly areas. Consequently, due to lack of medical services people either die or go to quacks. I would therefore, request the Government that in the Seventh Five Year Plan, States should be given special assistance for medical facilities so that a democratic country with 70 crore population does not remain without medical services. The activities of the health clinics being run by quacks should also be investigated thoroughly.

[English]

(vii) Demand for a National Institute for Translation and Interpretation to promote understanding of different languages

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Bala-sore): Our hon. Prime Minister has rightly assessed the need of the hour when he said that what we need now is change in the system of education. Education should lead to qualitative development rather than merely gaining a degree. To usher in the new system besides other changes, we should have a National Institute for Translation and Interpretation to promote understanding of different languages which is the only effective way of promoting emotional integration of our country.

Besides promoting national integration, the Institute can help in scientific field too. Scientific, Medical, Engineering and other technical books and literature are mostly in English language. So