

(iv) Need to overcome the power crisis in Kerala by supplying Power from Kalpakkam Neyveli and Ramagundam Power Stations and from central quota

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the State of Kerala was well known for its torrential rainfall and luxuriant rain forests. Until recently Kerala had an abundance of power from its many hydel power stations. Unfortunately, Kerala is now faced with unprecedented drought and acute shortage of electricity. The vagaries of monsoon deceived the people of Kerala and the power crisis has become a new threat to the overall development of the State.

Industrial economy of Kerala was worst affected when the State Electricity Board imposed a hundred per cent power cut on high-tension and extra high-tension consumers. According to estimates the State has incurred a production loss of Rs. 100 crores and the workers have lost Rs. 10 crores in wages alone.

Meteorologists are of the opinion that during the last eighty six years monsoon in Kerala has never been as lean as in this year. Hence the hydel power stations alone cannot provide sufficient power to meet our industrial and domestic requirements. Kerala's exclusive dependence on hydel power should, therefore, be backed up by alternate source of power

The immediate solution lies in importing power from neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Here the intervention of the Central Government is essential not only to meet the present crisis by securing supply from Kalpakkam, Neyveli and Ramagundam power stations, but to make provision for supply from Central quota every time such crisis recurs due to failure of monsoon in Kerala until a permanent solution is found by installing thermal power stations there.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to adopt necessary measures to improve telephone services in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the telephone services in Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, are in shambles. Hundreds of telephones have been lying out of order for the past one month. What to speak of connecting trunk calls, one cannot get even the local numbers and even if some number is connected, the same gets cross-connected or telephones are held up.

During the last three months, subscribers have made thousands of complaints but no effective measure has been adopted by the senior officers to improve the telephone services resulting in widespread resentment among the people. Lethargy and corruption are rampant in the Tele-communication Department, Bhopal, and the Government is suffering losses to the tune of lakhs of rupees every day.

Similarly, functioning of the Telephone Exchanges in the surrounding cities of Bhopal is also faulty. 90 per cent exchanges and rural PCOs, particularly, in Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Hoshangabad and Rajgarh districts remain out of order because of which also urban and rural subscribers are feeling harassed. The Minister of Communications is, therefore, requested to see that adequate improvement is made in the communication system of Madhya Pradesh and strict action is taken against the guilty officers.

(vi) Need to construct an overbridge over Rani Bazar Railway crossing in Bikaner, Rajasthan

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY (Bikaner) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the railway line passes through the middle of Bikaner. There are five railway crossings on it in the city area. On an average these railway crossings are closed 48 times per day. How much time is consumed in closing and opening these crossing 48 times a day can very well be imagined by the Department of Railway itself.

Bikaner is a city with 5 lakh population. It is evenly divided on each side of the railway line. These five railway crossings in the middle of the city have caused an acute