

directly from Delhi, Government should construct Mussafirkhanas at Delhi.

The Government should also arrange direct flights from Srinagar to Jeddah for the pilgrims of Kashmir from the next year. I urge that all these reformative measures may be taken in right earnest.

**(v) Demand for S.T.D. facilities in Pathanamthitta district in Kerala**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Pathanamthitta is the only district in Kerala which does not have STD facilities. This district was formed a few years back but it has not so far been put on the STD network. Although the microwave station has been completed, due to non-availability of some vital equipment, it could not be commissioned.

This district contributes substantially to the economy of the country with its cash crops like rubber, pepper, cardamom, etc. With the largest number of schools, colleges and technical institutions, it has the highest literacy rate in the State. Perhaps the largest number of people from a single district working in the Gulf countries are also from Pathanamthitta. In the absence of STD facilities, the growing needs of faster communication cannot be met. This has affected the development of this district.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Communications to direct the concerned authorities to immediately supply the equipment needed and introduce STD in Pathanamthitta at the earliest.

**(vi) Need to exempt international awards and prizes won by our artists/sportsmen from customs duty**

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : India with its rich culture and heritage has produced some of the finest artists in the world in the field of visual arts such as sculpture, painting, graphics and photography. Most of these artists who have won international awards are from a humble background. Due to the prohibitive cost of art aids and materials

they find it difficult to fully meet their art needs even in India. Hence when they receive international awards and prizes, they are unable to bring them home because of the customs regulations of the Government. For example, a well known photographer having won a camera as price in an international photography exhibition has been unable to bring it into the country as he is unable to pay the customs duty which runs into thousands of rupees. We seem to have overlooked the fact that whenever any of the countrymen get an international award it is also a recognition for our country. So far only a handful of sportsmen have been allowed to bring in their awards without paying customs duty.

Therefore, I request the Government to look into the matter in this perspective and show them appreciation and acknowledgement by declaring these international awards and prizes won by artists as non-dutiable commodities. This will go a long way in encouraging arts and sports in the country. It will further boost morale of our young artists and sportsmen who need every support and encouragement to reach the highest potential of their talent.

[Translation]

**(vii) Need to improve Telephone services in Varanasi region of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : There has been continuous deterioration in the telephone services in the Varanasi region of eastern Uttar Pradesh. In an important city like Varanasi, 40 to 50 per cent telephones remain out of order daily. The situation of telephone services in Ghazipur, Ballia, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Mau and Bhadohi cities near Varanasi is even more pitiable. In the villages, the telephones remain out of order for days and even for months together. The trunk service in Varanasi is very inefficient. Although one can get telephone connection for big cities from Varanasi but it is very difficult to get telephone connection from there for small towns located nearby. The trunk exchange of Varanasi plays an

[Shri Zainul Basher]

important role in respect of communication in linking big cities of the country and the cities of Western region of Uttar Pradesh with the cities near Varanasi. The said exchange gives priority to the calls of Varanasi city only.

It has been proposed to set up an electronic telephone exchange in Ghazipur city. Only after the completion of the said exchange, Ghazipur can get self-dialling service for Varanasi and other big cities. This exchange should be set up as early as possible. There should be direct link between Ghazipur and Varanasi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Mau, Azamgarh, Ballia and Gorakhpur.

No serious effort is being made for the expansion of telephone services in the Varanasi region. There is a proposal for setting up telephone exchanges at a number of places. But it has not been cleared. It has come to my knowledge that there is a shortage of spare parts, cables and instruments in that region, with the result that the Department is not able to take up the proposed new work and other works, like repair, etc., although they want to undertake this work.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of communications to pay immediate attention to the above-mentioned problems and bring comprehensive improvements in the telephone system in the Varanasi region of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(viii) **Need to electrify railway line between Bangalore and Jolarpet**

\*\* DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : The railway route between Bangalore and Madras is a very high density line. Several thousands of persons travel on this route everyday. But, unfortunately, this route has not been electrified so far. The portion of the route which is in Tamil Nadu has been electrified long ago. This route is between Madras and Jolarpet. The other portion of the route i.e. between Jolarpet and Bangalore has

been given step-motherly treatment. In spite of long pending demand, no progress has been made to electrify this part of the railway line. Electrification of this line will be a boon to the people of Bangalore, Bangarpet and Jolarpet as all of them are very popular places. It will also help the employees of BGML, BHEL and the merchant community of Kolar District.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take steps for the electrification of the railway route between Bangalore and Jolarpet immediately.

12.20 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :  
DISAPPROVAL OF COAL MINES  
NATIONALISATION LAWS  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1986  
AND  
COAL MINES NATIONALISATION  
LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL  
1986—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, during the course of discussion on the Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill I was saying that the bureaucrats had deliberately left some loopholes in this Bill so that they might be in a position to show some favour to these private companies and thereby these companies might also be able to have monetary gains from the Government. Such loopholes have been left not only in this Bill but in every legislation. Due to this, the proprietors of the private companies take up the matters with the courts and obtain decrees against the Government from there. In the process, they claim a handsome amount from the Government. This happens everywhere. Therefore, the Government should remain particularly cautious in this regard. These bureaucrats manage to leave loopholes in each and

\*\* The Speech was originally delivered in Kannada.