

idle. All this shows laxity in hospital administration and Government supervision of the hospital management. The Government must order an enquiry into this and re-frame their regulations to ensure that such equipment is kept in good condition. It is also necessary to make hospital administrators responsible for keeping the equipment in working order.

- (v) Need to construct another bridge on Muniyeru river in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh on National highway No. 9

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The Bridge on Muniyeru river a Keesara in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh on National Highway No. 9 was damaged on 14th May, 1985 due to the collapse of one span. It has resulted in serious obstruction to traffic. Even after repairs to the span damaged, heavy vehicles are not permitted over the Bridge, thereby causing terrible inconvenience, waste of time and fuel spent over alternative routes. There is an absolute need to construct another bridge. It is learnt that the Government of India has already approved the proposal. But till now there is no progress in the work. So, I suggest that the Government should take immediate steps for starting the work as it is a very important link between North and South over which hundreds of heavy vehicles pass every hour.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) Need to establish electronic industries in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the big industries which create environmental pollution, are not considered functional for the hill areas. Therefore, the establishment of electronics industry is given top priority. Again, it has been advocated under the new Industrial policy that certain financial incentives will be given to those electronics industries which will be set up in the hill areas. But it is not being implemented. Most of the licences issued to the Electronics industries by the Indian Government during the last three years, have been issued to those which are located in large cities or in areas attached

to such cities. In the case of big industrial groups also, the licences have been issued only in regions which are developed from the industrial point of view.

The Uttar Pradesh Mill Electronics Corporation was set up, with a definite investment some two years ago. The organisation called Uptron is also functioning there. The Government issued licences to both these organisations. Some private parties have also similarly received their licences. But even in these cases, priority is being given to industries which are to be established in places like Ghaziabad or in such hill areas which are industrially developed, like Dehradun or Bhawar-Terai area of Nainital. Besides, due to the national requirements for afforestation, and environmental protection, the industries which were dependent on traditional forest produce have come to an end and this has resulted in an increase in unemployment.

Because of this condition, discontent is in evidence in all hill areas, particularly in my area. The hill areas are slowly becoming sensitive. Regional and such other parochial feelings are spreading among the educated unemployed youths of these areas. Therefore, these areas must be given priority in matters of industrial development and electronics industries must be set up on highest priority basis.

[*English*]

- (vii) Need to allocate equal amount from I.R.D.P. funds to each M.P. and M.L.A. either block-wise or constituencywise for the purpose of development of their respective areas

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : For the implementation of the IRD Programme and other rural development programmes such as NREP, DPAP etc., District Rural Development Agency has been set up. The agency is headed by the Collector/Deputy Commissioner or Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad. It has a Governing Body headed by the Collector/Deputy Commissioner and its membership among others consists of M.Ps. and M.L.As. Functions of the Agency include identification of the beneficiaries of IRDP, formula-

tion of perspective and annual action plans, monitoring of evaluation of the programme etc. Funds for the IRDP are shared by the Central and the State Government on 50:50 basis and the Central share is released directly to the Agency.

While determining the quantum of allocation of funds for various developmental programmes, I would urge the Government that an equal percentage of the amount of the allocation to be made to an M.P. and M.L.A. either block-wise or Constituency-wise should be fixed so that they can develop their respective areas according to its needs without any hinderance.

12.22 hrs.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up item No. 8 on the Agenda—Further consideration of the motion moved by Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi on the 31st July, 1986. Already we have taken two hours and 28 minutes. The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. We are going to permit three or four speakers and I request them to be very brief taking only five minutes each.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amendment Bill in regard to electricity provides that the theft of electricity will be regarded as a serious offence. There is no denying that the theft of electricity should be regarded as a serious offence but what will be its result ? Mostly the poor farmers will be caught under this crime and the big industrialists who commit theft of electricity will go scot free because the personnel of Electricity Department help them in this theft of electricity.

The provision for theft of electricity as serious offence will implicate the poor farmers only. The employees of Electricity

Department like linesman, overseers etc. take bribe from the influential persons and allow them to utilize electricity illegally. Unless action is taken against the employees of the Electricity Department, it is doubtful whether by amending the law the Electricity Department will register improvement, and theft of electricity will be checked. At the most, it will cause harassment to the small farmers.

I would like to give an example in this respect. There was an owner of cold storage in our region. He used to commit theft of electricity to the tune of about Rs. 10,000 per month. There is no record for how many years he had been committing the theft of electricity. When an overseer caught him, his superior officers warned him not to do this as it would only harm him. As a result thereof the overseer was transferred from that area. If some subordinate honest officer wants to bring to book such person, the higher officers harass him because they themselves are involved in it. This is what has happened to such an overseer of our area.

I would, therefore, like to say that so far as the theft of electricity is concerned, it should be checked. The nation is bearing a huge loss due to this theft of electricity in the Electricity Department. Strict action should be taken against such officers in the Electricity Department as help in the act of theft. Only after this the amendment, which is being brought by the hon. Minister, can be implemented in a proper way. I would like to request the hon. Minister that first they should streamline the functioning of the Electricity Department.

The electricity situation in the rural areas is very bad. There the electricity plays hide and seek with the people. Whenever the supply is restored, they rush to start the motor but on reaching the farms, they find that the electricity has gone again. Due to this the development of the country is being hampered.

In villages, the farmers are surrendering the electricity connections. You will have to think over it seriously. The country needs electricity for the development but it is an irony that farmers are surrendering the electricity connections. They say categorically that they don't need electricity because