

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(I) Need to Improve Telephone Services in Barauni (Bihar)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise an important matter under rule 377. Barauni is an important industrial centre. Big industrial establishments like refinery, fertilizer factory, thermal power station etc. are located there. Factories like the Bata Shoe Factory, Spinning Mill etc. are functioning at Mokameh, 15 kilometers from Barauni. Thus, within a radius of 20 kilometers from Barauni, many big and small factories are engaged in production of some commodity or the other. It is regrettable that for such an important industrial centre, the telephone service is far from adequate. In fact, Barauni should have direct telephone link with the capital of the country but, not to speak of Delhi, it is not even properly linked with the State capital, Patna. From Barauni, it generally takes about three to four days to establish telephonic contact with Patna. It is even impossible to contact the nearby town Lakhisarai on telephone.

The saddest part of it is that although essential infrastructural facilities are already available there, yet the telephone service could not be run smoothly. About one and a half years back, a building had been constructed there for establishing an automatic telephone exchange. The project estimates for 600-line automatic telephone service had been sanctioned about three years back. But it is surprising that even after incurring a lot of expenditure on providing infrastructural facilities, automatic telephone exchange could not be established there till now. A 20-line exchange should have been set up there till the end of the last financial year. I, therefore, urge the hon. Minister to take immediate necessary steps to obviate the difficulties of the people and to ensure adequate use of communication service for the industrial progress of the country and to prevent wasteful expenditure by Government.

(II) Need to set up some heavy industry in district Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) to remove unemployment among the youngmen.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI (Faizabad) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Faizabad is the most backward district of U.P. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the problem of unemployment among the youth of that area. This is one of those districts which have been declared most backward in the industrial sphere by the Central Government. Bikapur tehsil of this district is most backward. The youths living in the rural areas of this tehsil are beset with so many problems because of vast tracts of fallow land there.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to set up heavy industry in the public sector there so as to solve the problem of unemployment, keeping in view the availability of land and the backwardness of the region and the absence of any big industry there.

(English]

(III) Need to take immediate steps to establish two more T.V. relay stations at Mokokchung and Dimapur in Nagaland.

SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK (Nagaland) : At present we have a T.V. relay station at Kohima. But because of its low power transmitter and also due to topography and terrain, people of Phek, Wokha, Zunheboto, Mokokchung, Tuensang and Mon districts and Dimapur area are being deprived of viewing T.V. programmes through Kohima T.V. Relay Station.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to take immediate step to establish two more T.V. relay stations in Nagaland, that is, one at Mokokchung and another at Dimapur.

(IV) Need for Central assistance to Maharashtra for solving the drinking water problem in the scarcity hit villages in district Buldana.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : The drinking water problem in Maharashtra State has assumed serious dimensions. The weather is getting hot day by day and the problem is getting more and more severe.

The team of officers from the Central Government which had recently visited some district headquarters to analyse the situation is a step in the right direction. What is most urgently needed is to implement the suggestions of the team of Central Government Officers.