

honorarium which in no way compensates for the time and labour that has to be given for it. The question is not just of the subsistence of the workers but also of human dignity. They have been agitating for a very long time. They have placed their demands before successive Ministries. In 1989 when the Indira Mahila Yojana was announced, it was said that the *Gram Sevikas* and *Anganwadis* would be given the status of Government employees. However, nothing has been done. Later on during the National Front regime, the then Minister of Labour and Welfare, hon. Paswanji had agreed that there should be a revision of the rates of honorarium. But he also had not said anything about the minimum wages status. Now, today, when we are hearing of the Indira Mahila Yojana all over again, I would like to urge upon the Government that they should fulfil the promise that had been made by their late leader to the *Anganwadi* workers and either to give them the status of Government employees or, at any rate, for the present, to bring their honorarium on a par with the importance of the work that is done by them. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta :
This is a very important problem. I support the hon. Member. The Government should take note of this. (*Interruptions*).

Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya :
Otherwise, they will have to come again to Delhi.

Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav (Nalanda) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the Government's attention to the situation of drought and problem of power shortage in Bihar. As Bihar is a backward state there is an acute shortage of power. Due to no rainfall, farmers are experiencing great hardship because their crops have perished. The crops, they have sown have dried up.

Small and medium scale industries have been adversely affected. I would like to draw Government's attention to the economic crisis which has gripped Bihar. Central Government is responsible for aggravating these crises. I want that minimum basic power requirement of Bihar should be fulfilled from the Central Electricity Grid. Bihar and U.P. are the top-ranking States occupying first and second positions in the country. These are recurring problems every year. These problems are national problems. As such, these problems should be considered by taking into confidence all the hon. Members of Parliament from these two States. The Government should take steps to find a permanent solution to them.

[English]

Shri Anna Joshi (Pune) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice the proposed drastic step by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited of metering local calls originating from electronic exchanges in Bombay and Delhi and I request you to invite the attention of our Minister for Telecommunication so that he can act promptly and put an end to this highly irrational and illogical proposal of MTNL.

I understand from the various sections of the press that MTNL is planning to meter the local calls on a three-minute basis and that too, only those calls originating from electronic exchanges in Bombay and Delhi. This proposal, it seems, is likely to be effective from 1st September, 1991. On the very face of it, this proposal is unreasonable, unjust and irrational and it openly discriminates the electronic exchange subscribers. Technically speaking, this step amounts to putting local calls on par with STD calls.

Sir, discipline apart, how can you have two sets of rules for the subscribers? One set of rules for the electronic exchange subscribers and another for non-electronic exchange subscribers? Sir, take the example of

Bombay city itself where out of 27 lakh telephones only 48 per cent *i.e.* 3,38,000 are connected to electronic exchange and 52 per cent are connected to non-electronic exchange. Why should only 48 per cent subscribers bear the burden? This is indeed a gross case of indiscrimination and goes against the very principle of equality of our Constitution.

Therefore, Sir, I call upon the Hon. Minister for telecommunication, to appoint a broad based Committee consisting of representatives of various consumer bodies, like Bombay Telephone Users Association, Member of Parliament, local representative and your own representative. Let this Committee make a study on the economic pricing of local calls and submit a report. Till such report is submitted, the Government should not sanction the new scheme.

Mr. Speaker : Now the papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

13.06 Hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report of and Review on the Working of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Indira Gandhi National Open University for 1988-89 etc.

[*English*]

The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Arjun Singh) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 1988-89.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh, for the year 1988-89.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-177/91]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University for the year 1988-89.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indira Gandhi National Open University for the year 1988-89.

(4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-178/91]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1989-90.

(6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-179/91]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council