

water on the hopes of the people of Palghat.

Now it is said that a small electronic exchange unit, the preliminary work of which has already been completed, will be set up at Palghat. The original estimate was Rs. 16 crores. But now the minimum tender received for this project is to the tune of Rs. 50 crores. This means that even if this tender is accepted, there is going to be great delay in sanctioning this amount as it is three times as much as the original estimate. Thus, there is great uncertainty about this project as well.

Therefore, I would earnestly request the Government to stick to its original proposal to expand the ITI Palghat, for manufacturing the modern electronic exchanges.

(ii) NEED FOR LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE SERVICE CONDITIONS OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Under Rule 377, I make this statement. The domestic servants are a disgruntled lot who have to work almost round-the-clock without any future in life. In fact, they have no social life in comparison to others in the society. Due to their poverty, they are being exploited by those who employ them. By compelling circumstances, they have to leave their home in search of jobs, leaving behind their nearest and dearest ones. Even in case of death in the family they very rarely get leave.

The prevailing circumstances in the family is the reason for their indebtedness. Although Government have already freed a lot of bonded labour, there are still some under the clutches of big money lenders. These money lenders are taking full advantage of these down-trodden people.

A recent survey done by the Labour Bureau has revealed the long hours of duty these unfortunate people have to perform. The survey has shown that daily working hours of servants were 9 or more in 72 percent cases. Of these, working hours were 13 to 15 in

40 percent cases. Majority of the servants were critical of their excessive hours of work. This aspect needs to be looked into and early attempts should be made to regulate the working hours of domestic servants. Strangely, the Government has not reacted to this report.

These domestic servants are not enjoying any welfare amenities like old age pension, retirement benefits etc. The wages of domestic servants are poor compared to other sectors of economic activities. In fact, in 11 per cent of the cases no salary whatsoever is being paid to servants—instead given free accommodation.

To improve the living conditions of such people there is immediate need for statutory protection on the following lines:

(i) regulation of working hours:

(ii) Protection against summary/arbitrary dismissal from service—notice of dismissal, protection of leave and pay for full period of notice;

(iii) written contract of employment with terms and conditions;

(iv) registration of domestic servants with the specified agencies; and

(v) settlement of disputes.

Under the circumstances, I appeal to the Government to look into these affairs and bring forward necessary legislation to protect the interest of these exploited domestic workers.

(iii) NEED FOR ACCORDING EARLY CLEARANCE TO STATE INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION OF MAHARASHTRA FOR ALUMINA PROJECT.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): Under Rule 377, I make a statement.

Alluminium, the important industry is experiencing continuous shortage. For production of alluminium, alumina is the main raw material which is manufactured from the bauxite found in ores. Maharashtra State has sufficient supply of bauxite worth exploitation in Kohlapur, Ratnagiri and Raigad dis-