

that the Tantrik was a declared fraud.

When a Press statement appeared in *The Statesman* on the 28th October, 1981, that Mr. Raju Bhatnagar, a man with a criminal history had confessed that he was asked to assassinate Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, Government did not come forward with a statement in the House regarding that matter in spite of our demand. But here in this case the Government very conveniently tried to exploit the predictions of Mr. Shastri against Mr. Bahuguna.

Therefore, I demand thorough enquiry in both the matters and full discussion on the Floor of the House.

(viii) UNSATISFACTORY TELEPHONE SERVICE BY CUSTOMS TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MADRAS CIRCLE.

SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Periyakulam): I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications to the sorry plight of telephone subscribers in Cumbum Telephone Exchange, Madurai circle. The Cumbum Telephone Exchange is out-of-order on almost all the days. There is no way open to report to the exchange even the non-working of telephones. The improper upkeep, unskilled maintenance of "Selector" that monitor, is the root cause for the breakdown.

The inter-dialing system seldom works and whenever it works the wrong numbers are connected. This result in monetary loss to the subscribers due to the introduction of meter facility and thereby curtailment on free calls. The subscribers are being penalised for no fault of theirs.

It is common knowledge that telephone service is to work round the clock. But Cumbum Exchange seems to be an exception to the rule. The public are very much aggrieved over the fact that there is hardly any res-

ponse from trunks maintenance number "200" between 6 and 10 p.m. It is learnt that there is no technical staff to reply during these hours.

As power failure is a daily feature in Cumbum Town, Telephone Communications are dead for 5 to 6 hours daily. There is no stand-by arrangement like battery facility or generator service in Cumbum. Provisions of no-break power plant is inevitable here.

The subscribers of Cumbum Telephone Exchange are planters having financial stakes in Kerala. They have to contact their people in the Estates through Kumuli Exchange (Kerala) hardly at a distance of 30 kms. from Cumbum. This is out of contact for 20 days a month because of frequent breakdowns due to heavy wind, rain etc., in the hilly terrain through which the line passes.

Hence, one more trunk line erection in addition to this and that too, both by ACSR (Aluminium Conductor Steel Reinforced) wire is immediately required.

Cumbum, being the place of residence of Cardamom planters who contribute substantially to the foreign exchange earnings by the export of Cardamom to all over the world, the following facilities are urgently required:

1. Cumbum Thevaram inter-dialing.
2. Cumbum-Kombai inter-dialing.

3. Cumbum-Uthamapalayam inter-dialing.

4. Cumbum - Madurai - Madras-New Delhi-Bombay STD facility.

5. Cumbum-Theni STD.

6. TAX circuit to Cumbum.

7. One more trunk line from Cumbum to Kumuli.

8. Installation of U.H.S. system between Cumbum and Theni.

(ix) ASSENT TO THE KERALA LAND REFORMS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

SHRI A. K. BALAN (Ottapalam): A Bill as passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly was forwarded by the Governor to the Government of India on 30-4-1980 for obtaining the assent of the President to the Bill. The Bill seeks to omit section 60 of the Kerala Land Reforms Act, 1963. Section 60 was inserted in the Act by the Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1979 (27 of 1979) in order to give protection to certain persons who have obtained leases of lands after 1-4-1964 and effected substantial improvements in such lands, in spite of the provision contained in section 74 prohibiting the creation of tenancies after 1-4-1964.

The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, had raised certain objections to the Bill and Kerala Government sent the reply thereto. The then Chief Minister explained the necessity of the legislation, and requested the Home Minister to take urgent steps for obtaining the assent of the President to the Bill. Government of India had suggested to reconsider the matter stating that the Bill is *ultra vires* the provision of articles 31A and 14 of the Constitution. The contentions of the Government were also met by Government of Kerala. A further communication from the Government of India has also been received seeking certain clarifications on the status of

the tenants protected under section 60 of the Kerala Land Reforms Act and a reply to that communication is being sent to the Government of India.

It is suggested that the Government of India should see that assent is given to the Bill at an early date.

(x) INQUIRY INTO DEATH OF A NURSE FROM KERALA IN PRATAPGARH DISTRICT OF U.P.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I wish to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the highly suspicious circumstances under which a nurse from Kerala posted at the primary health centre at Lalganj in Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh had died on 24 November, 1981.

It is said that a doctor at the PHC had an evil eye on her and she had thwarted all attempts to molest her and as a punishment she was transferred to Bhojpur village 15 km away from Lalganj. It is also said that she used to return to the hostel at Lalganj every evening even though her stay had been arranged in a house in the village whose owner was known to be a bad character. It was also alleged that there was attempt to evict her from the hostel and force her to stay in the village residence on 24 November. On that day when her friend returned from duty, the door of her room was found half open. On entering, she found that the deceased was lying unconscious. She informed the doctor in charge and the BEE (Block Extension Educater) about her condition.

It is alleged that she was removed to the hospital at Pratapgarh only after two hours. She died in the hospital at midnight.

It was also alleged that proper postmortem was not done on her body. An attempt has been allegedly made by the doctor-in-charge and the clerk to make out a story that