

3. There should be direct telephone line between Vidisha and Sironj.
4. The Telephone exchanges of Budni and Nasrullaganj should be directly connected with the district head-quarter Sihore instead of Hoshangabad.
5. The microwave STD link project between Vidisha and Bhopal should be completed immediately. There should also be microwave link between Vidisha-Raisen and Raisen-Bhopal.

(xii) **Heavy damage to crop, life and property in some districts of Bihar because of heavy rains**

SHRI D.P. YADAV (Monghyr) : Sir, the principal rainy season for the Ganga basin is from late June to September. The average normal rainfall in the confluence of Sone, Damodar, Ajai and Kiul basins in May, June and July is about 428 m.m. But in 1984, the total rainfall in this basin has exceeded 962 m.m. in the corresponding period. This has caused a heavy damage to crop, life and property in the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Santhalpargana, Saharsa and its adjoining districts in the State of Bihar. All the channels in the lower reaches have spilled heavily over their banks, the road systems have been heavily damaged and large number of mud houses have collapsed. The irrigation projects and its main canal system have been heavily damaged. Plantation in Kharif crop has been delayed, the seedlings have had to be prepared twice and thrice and there has been heavy erosion of the prepared paddy beds. The fertiliser consumption has also increased. In view of the unlimited loss to farmers and public of the area, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to kindly take action in this regard.

(Interruptions)*

(xiii) **Need to set up a nuclear power plant in Bihar**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing other than matter under rule 377 goes on

record. Shastriji, your matter under rule 377 will only go on record.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna) : Sir, under the auspices of Science for Society, Bihar, a Seminar on Energy Crisis in the State was held at Patna on March 10-11, 1984. In the Seminar, after due consideration, a unanimous resolution was passed demanding setting up of an atomic power station in Bihar.

In Bihar, the per capita power consumption stood at 42 KWH in 1960 against the national average of 38 KWH. However, in 1981-82, the per capita consumption in Bihar stood at 85 KWH against the all-India average of 143 KWH. During April-December, 1983, power shortage in the country as a whole rose 11.8 per cent whereas in Bihar it soared to 39.6 per cent. The annual rate of increase in power generation between 1950-83 works out to 9.8 per cent in the country as a whole whereas during the same period, the annual rate of increase in power generation in Bihar Electricity Board was only 2.5 per cent. In this connection, it may be noted that as reported in the Press, the then Union Planning Minister S.B. Chavan, noting that slippage in power sector was heavy in Bihar, stressed the need for remedial measures. Under these circumstances, Bihar needs Nuclear Power Plant without any further delay. Bihar has not only large uranium deposits but also other minerals like thorium, beryllium etc., required for atomic power project.

Recently, it has been argued by some people that the economies of scale of installing power reactor will be better if they are situated away from coal field thermal power stations which are mainly in Eastern regions to deprive the region of this nuclear boon in future also.

In view of this, I will make a fervent appeal to the Prime Minister for setting up a Nuclear Power Plant in Bihar to do away with its backwardness in spite of all means available.