

PROF. MADHU DANDVATE (Rajapur): Very good news, Sir. It will give us..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has come and told me.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: (Basirhat): Very kind of him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, these small mercies are welcome.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Specially when you are saying unkind things.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): I am on a point of order, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No point of order. I have not allowed that point of order.

(vii) ALLEGED TEMPERING OF THE TELEPHONE OF SHRI H. R. KHANNA, CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): It has been reported that ever since Justice Khanna was nominated as the Opposition candidate for the Presidential election on 12th July 1982, his telephone was being tampered with. It is further learnt that for at least three hours every day, Shri Khanna's telephone was out of order and the STD was also being interrupted.

This amounts to direct interference by the Government in the campaign for Presidential election, and an encroachment on fair and free elections.

The Minister for Communications should make a statement in this regard, and assure the House that the Government will not tamper with the fair and free Presidential elections.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Dausa): What about our telephones? (Interruption)

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): Sir; whether a particular telephone is tap-

ped or not, I will neither confirm nor deny. Normally I would not; but in this particular case, I will rather make an exception, and take the House into confidence.

When this news appeared in the Press, I immediately directed that the position be ascertained, as to whether tapping was done. And there is a procedure. The procedure is that if I tap a particular telephone, I do it on an order from a prescribed authority, a written order with reasons given. And then along the telephone is tapped. In this case, there is no written order; and the telephone was never tapped at all.

I also wanted to know whether this telephone had gone out of order, by checking up with 198 about complaints. On 198, after he was declared the Presidential candidate, we had only two complaints—one on the 2nd and another on the 3rd. On the complaint of 2nd, it was found that there was no fault at all. On the complaint of 3rd which reached us in the evening, it was found that at the distribution point, the wire was slightly dislocated. That was set right the next day morning. Excepting that, there is no complaint registered with us, about the faulty functioning of the telephone. I am assured by my top officers that this telephone has been working perfectly all right, without interruption. There is no question of tampering with the telephone. There can be only tapping of the telephone, under a special order; and nothing of that sort has happened here.

I can also assure the House that we have got enough sense of balance and sense of proportion to know that merely because of the candidacy of Mr. Khanna, he has not assumed any special significance to deserve our special attention for a special tapping. (Interruptions) That is what I wanted to say.

PROF. MADHU DANDAWATE: Sir,

please take note of the fact that the Minister has said that he—Mr. Khanna—has not acquired a special significance to deserve special tapping. Will he tell us what special significance has to be acquired in order to get the tapping by the hon. Minister?

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** The significance can be either positive or negative; and it can be absolutely indifferent and neutral. As far as this is concerned, there is no significance, either negative or positive. (*Interruption*)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE** (Jadavpur): This is a very important matter. What is meant by special tapping?

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** Every tapping is special. In that sense, I said it there is nothing more.

(viii) NEED FOR INCREASED AND PROMPT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT FOR FAMILY RELIEF MEASURES.

**श्री अशोक गहलोत (जोधपुर):** मान्यवर, राजस्थान प्रदेश में भयंकर सूखे की स्थिति से हालात अब बदतर हो गये हैं। गांवों में मनुष्यों के लिए धान व पशुओं के चारे की भयंकर कमी बनी हुई है। पशुओं को बचाना अब मुश्किल हो गया है। मानसून के अभी तक नहीं आने से एवं साधारण से कम वर्षा होने के मौसम विभाग की भविष्यवाणियों से राज्य के लोगों में चिन्ता फैल गई है। अकाल राहत कार्यों के कारण लोगों को थोड़ी मजदूरी मिल पायी है परन्तु राज्य सरकार की आर्थिक स्थिति कमजोर होने के कारण मजदूरी पर लगने के इच्छुक सभी मजदूरों को अकाल राहत के कार्यों पर नहीं लगाया जा सका है। कई अकाल राहत शिविरों को अभी से बंद किया जा रहा है जिसके कारण गांव में बैठे किसान, मजदूर, पिछड़े वर्ग के लोग अपनी आजीविका चलाने में असहाय हो गये हैं। इसका कारण एक यह भी है कि पिछले चार वर्षों से लगातार सूखे से उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति इतनी कमजोर हो गई है कि गांव

का साहूकार व व्यापारी उनको नगद री सामग्री के रूप में उधार देने से कतराने लगे हैं। क्योंकि उनको निकट भविष्य में वसूली की कोई उम्मीद नहीं है। केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा अकाल के मद में आवंटित धनराशि से राज्य सरकार ने लाखों मजदूरों को समय पर रोजगार दे कर भूख से मरने से तो बचाने में सफलता प्राप्त की है लेकिन समय पर मानसून नहीं आने से अभी लम्बे समय तक अकाल राहत शिविरों को चलाने की आवश्यकता पड़ गयी है। क्योंकि मानसून के आ जाने के बावजूद भी अविलम्ब खेतिहर व भूमिहीन मजदूरों को रोजगार नहीं मिल सकेगा, जिसके कारण उन्हें अकाल राहत कार्यों के आधार पर ही रोजगार देना आवश्यक है।

मैंरा कृषि मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि राज्य सरकार को अकाल राहत कार्यों के लिए अविलम्ब और अधिक राशि उपलब्ध कराए एवं राज्य सरकार को स्पष्ट निर्देश दें कि जब तक कोई मजदूर काम में आना चाहे उन्हें मजदूरी पर लगाया जाना चाहिये। मानसून के आने तक एक भी अकाल राहत शिविर बन्द नहीं करें।

(ix) NEED FOR AMENDING CONSTITUTION TO GIVE RIGHT TO VOTE TO MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLIES OF UNION TERRITORIES IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO** (Mormugao): On July 12, 1982, the nation will elect the President of the Republic. Members of Parliament and of the State Legislatures will exercise their precious right to vote in this election. However, the M.L.As. of the Union Territories of Goa, Daman and Diu, Pondicherry, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh though they are elected in precisely the same manner as the Members of the Legislatures of the States will not form part of the electoral colleges and will not have a right to vote in this important election. The Members of the Legislative Assemblies of those Union Territories are not entitled to vote in this election since Article 54 of the Constitution as it presently stands only confers this right on Members of Parliament and of the