

are taking place elsewhere by some agencies abroad.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the severe shortage of edible oil, rice and kerosene in the State of Maharashtra.

It is a matter of regret that though on several occasions, the State Government has submitted its representations to the Union Government, action is still awaited. The public distribution system is on the verge of collapse as quotas have not been coming from the Centre. The edible oil situation in particular is appalling. The Centre did not send its quota for the months of March, April and May at all. I repeat that for three months, the quota of edible oil was not sent to Maharashtra at all and for the month of June, it has only sent 600 metric tonnes as against the State's demand for 15,000 metric tonnes. The rice currently available is unfit for animal consumption, leave aside human beings. Kerosene too is in short supply.

The scene of empty shelves in the urban and rural Public Distribution system shops where the urban and rural poor depend on, is very frightening.

I request, through you, Mr. Chairman, the hon. Prime Minister that he should personally intervene in this matter and provide relief to the poor people in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a matter of public importance in the House. The milk producers of the states have given a notice for strike. The milk cooperatives of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are very much worried following the announcement of the new industrial policy. Their con-

cern is based on the apprehension that with the introduction of new economic policy, de-licensing has been done with the result that big industrial houses and multi-nationals would enter the market. Milk cooperatives are worried that supply of milk to Delhi from the milk producers, who account for 50 per cent of the total supply, would be stopped. I am raising this question because it is a basic issue. Milk cooperatives have demanded that the announcement regarding de-licensing under the new licensing policy should be withdrawn so that multi-nationals and big industrial houses do not enter the milk market. 25 million tonnes of milk is produced under the 'Operation Flood' programme. If the Government do not reconsider its decision of de-licensing, I am afraid, the cooperatives engaged in milk supply would stop supplying milk with the result that the price of milk would go up. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry are concerned with it. Through you, I would urge the Government to consider reversing the de-licensing policy.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Sir, The MTNL has taken a decision to meter a local call every three minutes both in Delhi and Bombay. Actually 50 per cent of the Exchanges are not electronically operated.

I request the Communication Minister to clarify the position as to whether the decision has been already taken and whether it will be implemented from 1st of September because three organisations from Maharashtra are organising a mercha on 20th of August against the discrimination between from crossbar and electronic exchanges.

I request the Communication Minister to please clarify the position whether they are going to implement the three minute call or not. (Interruptions)