

Government to install a modern telephone exchange with a capacity of 1400 lines in view of the industrial position of Chikaldhana.

Sir, similarly, I demand that 30 channels should be provided to Valooz and Jaikvadi from the 120 channels Microwave digital System which is being installed between Aurangabad and Beed because the M.I.D.C. Industrial area of Valooz and Jaikvadi is very important.

*[English]*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, May I just invite the attention of the Government through you and also through the House to a new phenomenon now being experienced by our passengers at the Santa Cruz Airport. Many of the passengers are being robbed of their valuables by the Security personnel and those who are coming from the Gulf countries have been complaining that their valuables are robbed of by the Security Staff while their luggage is being processed through X-ray. The luggage is x-rayed at the Santa Cruz.

On the 30th of November there was an incident for which myself and another hon. Member of this House, Mr. K. Muralee Dharan are witnesses. We were on board the flight from Bombay to Calicut. And one passenger came on board he was coming from Saudi Arabia - and complained that some of his money had been taken away by the Security staff while his luggage was being x-rayed. The Commander of that aircraft, Capt. Manchanda came down and took him to the security Staff. And he was returned 100, Saudi riyals which had been taken away from him by the Security Staff. This is now continuing and increasing. I would urge the Government to stop forthwith this harassment of the bonafide passengers and also take action against the delinquent officers.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the House to a very important issue. As I have also given a notice for it formed. The prices of all the essential commodities are continuously increasing. During the budget session, the Finance Minister had assured the whole nation that the prices of essential commodities will decline or start declining after the month of October. But according to the figures available here, inflation has increased 7 per cent between October and November and the prices of all the essential commodities have increased by 4 per cent. During the last six months prices of life saving drugs have increased by 2.5 times to 3 times. The prices of text books and exercise books for children have increased nearly by 1.5 times during the last six months.

Sir, the Government is inefficient, prices of essential commodities are continuous on the rise. Despite the fact that the Kharif crops have reached the market, the prices of foodgrains are constantly increasing. The Public Distribution System of the Government has virtually collapsed. The Government has completely failed to provide essential items to the people. I, therefore, would like that a discussion should be held in the House regarding the availability of essential commodities to the people and the price rise. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a discussion is going on over such an important issue and the entire House is empty. Please call them inside the House. As assurance was given to bring down the prices of commodities within hundred days. It should be discussed in the House. Such an important issue is being discussed here, but Members belonging to the treasury benches are not present at all. I request you to call them inside. *(Interruptions)*