

[Sh. Zainal Abedin]

rupees per acre which is quite a difficult proposition.

Besides, the ash deposited in the Kangloi river has inflated the river-bed at a stretch of 10 kms reducing the capacity of the river to contain water. Hence people are apprehensive that due to this diminishing capacity of the river they would have to experience recurrence of floods in future affecting extended area of cultivable land and hitting hard larger number of farmers if measures for removal of the ash are not taken expeditiously.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to bear the financial liability of removing the accumulated ash from the affected land also to adopt measures to check the recurrence of floods.

- (viii) **Need to reconsider the proposal to form Mahanagar Telephone Nigams in Madras and Calcutta and review the continuation of it in Bombay and Delhi.**

SHRI VJAYNAVALPATIL (Erandol): It is understood that the Government is considering formation of Mahanagar Telephone Nigams for Madras and Calcutta on the lines of M.T.N.L. at Delhi and Bombay. The main source of revenue for Telecom Department is from metropolitan cities. The surplus income generated from here is spent on development and expansion of telephone network in rural areas. The compartmentalization of telecom services in M.T.N.L. will be dangerous and the development of telephone services in rural areas and small towns will suffer.

The salaries paid to MTNL employees will be disproportionately higher as compared to salaries paid to the different employees working in the rural areas in difficult climatic conditions. Moreover, because of extra spending on salaries and five star office culture can expect very small surplus income from MTNL.. If survey is conducted

it will be observed that the improvement in services in Delhi and Bombay are not due to MTNL's extra efficiency. The improvement can only be attributed to the automatic and multifarious work of electronic telephone exchanges.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Communication to reconsider the proposal of forming MTNLs for Madras and Calcutta and further to review seriously the continuation of MTNL at Bombay and Delhi.

12.50 hrs

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the President's Address moved by Shri P.M. Sayeed.

Shri K.V. Thomas to continue.

PROF. K.V THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, the present Congress Government, which came to power eight months back, inherited an economic structure which was completely in shackles and a political system which was in chaos. Moreover, the global political scenario showed that many of the Communist and Socialist countries are disintegrating under the new pressure of freedom and independence. Our time tested friend, Soviet Union, withered away into small republics. So, these changes, in the global political system, have its impacts on the political and economic system of our country.

The ever lowest foreign exchange reserve, the spiralling rate of inflation, the skyrocketing of the prices of essential commodities put a formidable task before the new Government. The turbulent situation created by Shri V.P. Singh's Reservation Policy, communal violence and tension prevailing in many parts of the country, escalating terrorists and secessionist activities in