

[Shri Pasumpon Tha. Kiruttinen]

department of communications has only sanctioned 1.6 lakh lines for the first four years. This is unfair and unjust that the department of telecommunications is doing to Tamil Nadu. Today, the Minister for Communications has announced that the country will have as many as 52 lakh lines during the Eighth Plan but out of this, Tamil Nadu is going to have only 1.6 lakh lines. This is highly unjust, unfair on the part of the Ministry of Communications. This should be rectified immediately. Therefore, I would like to bring this important matter to the notice of the Minister for Communications. It is stated that the department of telecommunications has allotted the equipment on the basis of projected growth rate of 9.7 per cent, basing its calculations on the longer period in the past. This does not compare favourably even with the projected average growth rate of 15 per cent for the telephone network in the entire country. When there were 35,000 people on the waiting list for phones, Madras telephones had 1.12 lakhs line network at the start of the Seventh Five Year Plan. But while the waiting list persons are 63,000 to 66,000 now Madras Telephones has to get 1.6 lakh lines network.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: According to the original plan for the next five years, about 63,000 lines would have gone for the replacement of old and worn out equipment, leaving the network with a net addition of 4.6 lakh lines. Therefore, Madras Telephones is trying to convince the department of Telecommunications of the need to release more lines taking into consideration the prevailing trends. They have also pointed out the growth rate of 13.6 per cent in the telephone network during the last five years itself would mean that for more lines would be required

to maintain the pace of development. Therefore, if the actual number of lines allotted by the department is not increased, it may be able to add not more than lakh lines during the next four years till 1993-94. I need not say that this will not be enough to meet the demands. According to the Madras Telephones, the actual demand is 5.2 lakh lines. I would say that the planned growth of Madras telephones is going to be curtailed during the next five years if the department of Telecommunications does not increase the quantum of equipment allotted to it. I would also like to request the Minister for Communications of the Government of India to see that an impression of neglecting Tamil Nadu is not created in the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu and particularly the people of Madras city. I need emphasise the crucial importance of telephones as a means of communications extremely important for industry and trade. Thank you.

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHYY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my colleague.

Need to restore Direct Flight between Delhi and Imphal

SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH (Manipur): Madam Deputy Chairman, my special mention is regarding the cancellation of an Indian Airlines daily flight from Delhi to Imphal via Guwahati. It is a well known fact that the State of Manipur is not connected by rail links and it is connected only through air links. Prior to 18-2-1990, there was a direct flight between Delhi and Imphal via Guwahati. But from the above date, the said flight has been discontinued with the grounding of the A-320 aircraft. While grounding the A-320 aircraft, it was assured that no inconvenience would be caused to the passenger. But now, to reach Manipur, passengers have to take the daily flight between Delhi and Calcutta, halt for a night at Calcutta and reach Manipur the next day. Passengers have to stay for a night at Calcutta.

This arrangement has posed a lot of difficulties and inconvenience to the people of Manipur. The State Government has also requested for the restoration of the flight which has been discontinued, that is the direct flight between Delhi and Manipur via Guwahati. I also urge upon the Government to look into the matter urgently and issue instructions for the restoration of the direct flight between Delhi and Imphal. It may not be out of place here to mention that since 1979 Manipur had been having a daily direct flight to Delhi till 18.2.1990. After the grounding of the A-320 aircraft, the flight which had been there for more than 11 years has been cancelled. It is my humble submission that the direct flight could be restored. Thank you.

Inadequate Central Assistance to the State of Rajasthan

श्री राज दत्त अस्नान (राजस्थान) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान एक ऐसे असंतुलन की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जो राजस्थान के साथ किया गया है। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने अपने उद्योग विभिन्न प्रान्तों में लगाए और उनमें इनवैस्टमेंट किया। लेकिन मुझे यह कहते हुए बड़ा दुख हो रहा है और मैं बहुत दुखी मन से यह बात व्यक्त कर रहा हूँ कि राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने अपने उपक्रमों के माध्यम से केवल 1137 करोड़ रुपए का इनवैस्टमेंट किया जब कि अन्य प्रान्तों में कहीं पर 15 हजार करोड़ रुपए का, कहीं पर 9 हजार करोड़ रुपए का और कहीं पर 6 हजार करोड़ रुपए का किया है। राजस्थान के साथ इस प्रकार का स्टेप मदरली ट्रीटमेंट किया गया है, यह वास्तव में बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है। खास तौर से उस समय जब कि राजस्थान में कांग्रेस की सरकारें रहीं और केन्द्र में भी कांग्रेस की ही सरकार रही। क्यों नहीं कांग्रेस को सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को मजबूर किया कि राजस्थान

में भी केन्द्रीय उद्योग लगे जिससे कि वहाँ पर विकास हो सके।

महोदया, राजस्थान के पास बहुत प्राकृतिक संपदा है। उसके पास मिनरल रिसोर्स है, नेचुरल रिसोर्स है। वहाँ से लाइम स्टोन बाहर जाता है, वहाँ से फास्फेट बाहर जाता है, वहाँ से लिप्नाइट बाहर जाता है। राजस्थान से अधिकतम कच्चा माल बाहर जा रहा है लेकिन राजस्थान में केन्द्रीय उद्योग लगाने की दृष्टि से कोई सीरियस प्रयत्न नहीं किए गए। इसी कारण, इस सदन के माध्यम से जो नई सरकार आई है, उससे मैं आग्रह करना चाहूँगा कि इस प्रकार के असंतुलन को दूर करे और राजस्थान में अपने उपक्रमों के द्वारा इनवैस्टमेंट को बढ़ाने के लिए सोझ प्रयत्न करे। राजस्थान के लोगों की यह अनुभव नहीं होने देना चाहिए कि उसके साथ किसी प्रकार का लोतेला व्यवहार किया जा रहा है या अपेक्षापूर्ण व्यवहार किया जा रहा है। मैं अपनी राष्ट्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वह इस मामले में गंभीरता से विचार करे अन्यथा राजस्थान में धीरे धीरे यह विचार हो रहा है कि हमारा रूँ मेटेोरियन बाहर ले जाया जाता है लेकिन वहाँ उद्योग नहीं लगाए जाते हैं। राजस्थान के लोगों ने बाहर जाकर उद्योग लगाए हैं, फिर भी राजस्थान औद्योगिक विकास में पिछड़ गया है। मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि वह ठीस कार्यवाही करे और यह आश्वासन देता कि राजस्थान विकास के प्रगति पथ पर बढ़कर हिन्दुस्तान के नक्शे में अपना मान्यता प्राप्त स्थान प्राप्त करे।

सधन्यवाद।

Need to ban Smoking in Public Places

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa):
Thank you for calling me to make this
Special Mention.