

**Demand for Mandatory Certification for Medical Equipment from  
Electronic Regional Testing Laboratory**

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we all know how diagnostic/pathological laboratories and hospitals are mushrooming in the country. In a way, it is good that we are getting more and more hospital and diagnostic centres at our doorsteps. But is it all enough to meet the genuine medical needs of the people? No. The problem is, even though we have these hospitals/diagnostic centres, we are not getting the correct/ accurate testing results due to obsolete medical equipment, lack of trained staff and failure to use scientific methods while carrying out various medical tests. The result is that doctors, relying on those results, are treating patients. And, due to inaccurate results, many a time, patients die. It is not that we do not have facilities to test medical equipment and impart training to technicians working in labs and hospitals. But people are not optimally utilising the facilities available in the country. We have the ERTL, Trivandrum, which carry out tests of medical equipments to ensure safety of patients. At the time of purchasing any medical equipment, calibration certificate has to be obtained from ERTL. I, understand that nobody is taking that certificate. Calibration is essential for equipment used for diagnostic purposes to ensure that only correct results are achieved. This is important since inaccurate results may lead to incorrect diagnosis and treatment which is dangerous to the life of patients. So, I request that the Government of India should amend the concerned laws to make it mandatory for all our diagnostic centres/hospitals to get certification from ERTL for their medical equipment every year to avoid incorrect testing results. I also demand that the ERTL centres should be opened in all major cities, which would help hospitals and laboratories in getting their medical equipments tested.

**Demand for Wage and Pay Revision in H.M.T.**

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Sir, my Special Mention pertains to the need for wage and pay revision in H.M.T. While the wages/ pay scales of most of the public sector undertakings have been revised upwards with effect from 1997, the HMT has been denied this. This has impacted the morale of the employees. Today with decade-old way/pay scales, the employee compensation is far below the industry average for

comparable skill and competency. As a result, HMT has seen swtichover of skilled and talented employees from all functional areas to its competitors and other PSUs. The impact has been two-fold. The competitors have grown stronger, while HMT's strength has eroded. The prevailing wage/pay scale in HMT is not conducive either to retain talents or to attract new talents to the company, thus making it difficult for it to fight the technological and marketing strength of the competitors.

Contrary to the assumptions of negative minded people, it would have been possible to revise the salaries/wages if VRS was not funded through bonds and interests imposed on HMT. The interest on VRS bonds costs the company Rs. 52 crore annually. The existing employees, who are skilled, and professionals of the company are paying the price for those who have left the company by paying for this interest and sacrificing their own welfare. If this liability is converted into equity, the interest on such savings will fund the increase in costs, due to salary/wage revision, which is about Rs. 30 crores. It will also provide money towards working capital, and will also result in higher morale and productivity. Therefore, it is requested to issue directives to the concerned for revision of wage/pay scale in HMT.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

#### **Need to Provide Telephone Facilities in Rural Areas of the Country**

**प्रो.एम.एम.अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** उपसभापति जी, मैं केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान देश के लगभग 6 लाख गांवों में से 66,822 गांवों में टेलीफोन की सुविधा प्रदान करने की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

उपसभापति जी, देश में इस समय हजारों गांव ऐसे हैं, जो घने जंगलो, दुर्गम स्थानों तथा आतंकवाद से प्रभावित क्षेत्र में स्थित हैं, लेकिन इन गांवों में अभी तक टेलीफोन की सुविधा का अभाव है। आज के विज्ञान, सूचना तथा प्रौद्योगिकी के युग में देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन की सुविधा एक महती आवश्यकता है। इस संबंध में सरकार को विशेष व प्रभावी कदम उठाने की जरूरत है।

उपसभापति महोदय, देश के जिन गांवों में अभी तक टेलीफोन की सुविधा नहीं पहुंची है, उनमें