

**Need for Permission to Information and Communications Network in  
Andhra Pradesh for Interconnecting with PSTN Network**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken several initiatives in the areas of creation of IT infrastructure, Human Resource Development and e-governance in the past few years. The State proposes to establish an Information and Communications Network for the Government of Andhra Pradesh, for providing cost-effective, reliable, secure, high bandwidth connectivity to districts, *mandals* and village Government offices; and also, to support connectivity to the internet for easy citizen access.

The Government of India was requested that the network be permitted to interconnect with the PSTN network, which is currently not allowed as per the existing guidelines for Closed User Groups. This proposal is pending for a long time; the State Government had also reminded the Union Government on 30.09.2002 for permitting the network.

As the matter is of great importance to the whole State, I urge upon the Government to take early decision on this issue, since the matter is pending for almost more than a year.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Harish Rawat. He is not present.

**Demand for Augmenting the Strength of Judges  
in the Gauhati High Court**

SHRI LALHMINGLIANA (Mizoram) : Madam, the Gauhati High Court is presently having a sanctioned strength of 19 Judges, including one Additional Judge. Even if the total sanctioned strength could be filled up at any given time, which has never been the case, it is absolutely inadequate for the principal seat at Gauhati and six permanent benches in each State. The principal seat at Gauhati requires a minimum of nine Judges at all times. Similarly, a minimum of two Judges is required to man the outlying benches of Aizawl, Shillong, Kohima and Itanagar, while a minimum of three Judges is required to man the outlying Benches of Imphal and Agartala.

One cannot lose sight of the fact that the Gauhati High Court is the common High Court for the seven North-Eastern States. Therefore, it will

be most unfair to treat Gauhati High Court at par with other High Courts for the purpose of increasing the strength of Judges. The object of establishing a permanent Bench in each of the North-Eastern State is to deliver quick justice at the doorsteps of the litigant public, who, due to poverty, cannot go to the principal seat. This objective has remained unfulfilled till date due to shortage of Judges. No division Bench could be regularly constituted in the outlying Benches to hear the appeal and PIL matters. Therefore, Madam, I request the Government to take immediate action for raising the strength of Gauhati High Court Judges, from 19 to 23, for ensuring effective and better administration of justice in the North-Eastern States.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN (Nominated) : Madam, I associate myself with his Special Mention.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi. He is not present.

#### **Introduction of Crop Insurance Scheme for Farmers**

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, my Special Mention is with regard to the Crop Insurance Scheme for agricultural farmers.

Madam, the farmers in our country are facing a lot of problems as the investment is increasing year after year, apart from uncertain rains and lack of irrigation facilities.

There is also a severe drought prevailing all over the country, and it has become very difficult for the farmers to continue with the agriculture.

The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), introduced in the country w.e.f. 1999-2000, is also not working to the entire satisfaction of farmers, as the individual farmer-wise coverage under the Crop Insurance Scheme is not done.

The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is compulsory for the loanee farmers, and optional for the non-loanee farmers.