

Even though this has been a vehement demand, it remains only a distant dream. Considering all these, it is only in the fitness of things that a separate Ministry is constituted with a full-fledged Cabinet Minister.

Therefore, I request the Prime Minister to personally look into this genuine issue and take immediate action.

(xii) Need to check increasing incidence of AIDS particularly in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) There is an alarming rise in AIDS cases in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh with 7,686 cases found in the last five and a half years. The survey conducted by the Director of Tripura Medical Centre and Research Foundation revealed that the number of HIV carriers was increasing due to lack of awareness on safe sex. Blood transfusion without proper tests and sterile syringes were also resulting in spread of the virus. The study estimated that about one lakh people would be carrying the killer virus in the North Coastal Districts.

The incidence was more in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam East and Godavari Districts and parts of Orissa. This medical centre and the research foundation had screened 16,760 blood samples in all during the study period. In the Western blot test, except 54 cases, the presence of the virus was confirmed in all the patients. Women outnumbered men in the number of HIV positive cases identified using the Western Blot Tests. An alarming situation was the spread of the disease affecting even the newborns.

According to the study, one of the main reasons for the increasing number of AIDS cases in the region was the mobile prostitutes prevailing on the highways.

Sir, as the study as revealed an alarming situation in the rise of AIDS cases in the North Andhra, I urge the Union Government to formulate a policy whereby the Central Government should take up this on themselves and help the State in checking the AIDS disease which is spreading fast in Andhra Pradesh and other States also.

(xiii) Need to expedite construction of airport at Cannanore in Kerala

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : It has been the long cherished dream of the people of Northern Kerala to have an airport at Cannanore. Time and again I myself had taken up the matter with the successive Governments and I am happy to note that the authorities have ultimately recognised the need for such an airport.

Almost every family in the Malabar districts of Cannanore, Calicut, Wyanad and Kasaragode has at least one member working in foreign countries, especially in the Middle East. An airport at Cannanore can cater to the needs of lakhs of Keralites living in gulf countries.

There is a great potential for tourism in this part of Kerala and the beaches of Cannanore and Kasaragode are considered to be the best in the State.

This airport is also essential to facilitate the export of perishable horticultural products like fruits, flowers, vegetables etc.; which are growing in large quantities in the hilly tracts of these districts.

Techno-economic feasibility survey has already been conducted by the Expert Committee and the Government of Kerala is awaiting clearance from the Centre to start the initial work of acquiring the land at Moorkkan - Paramba in Cannanore district.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to expedite this project and ensure that this airport is set up under Public sector without any delay.

(xiv) Need to declare Calcutta and Chennai as Class A-1 cities.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : I want to draw the attention of the Government as well as of the House that Calcutta & Chennai cities should be declared as Class A-1 cities. The Union Govt. is giving due respect of Class A-1 to Calcutta in case of city compensatory allowances to Central Government employees but depriving from the House building allowance. It is a matter of great regret not only for the Central Government employees but also for the people of West Bengal as a whole. The total population of Calcutta as a whole are one crore eight lakhs whereas the fifty lakhs are the criteria for becoming A-1 city but Calcutta has not been declared A-1 city.

West Bengal Govt. has already protested in this regard and the Central Government employees along with the people of West Bengal as a whole are protesting till date to declare Calcutta A-1 city.

I urge upon the Central Govt. to declare both Calcutta and Chennai as Class-A1 cities immediately.

(xv) Need to give Central assistance to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for providing relief to the people in Eastern U.P. affected by hailstorms and rains

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Dozens of people have died untimely due to hailstorms and heavy rains