

[Sh. Khelan Ram Jangde]

from Chhatisgarh region, the State Government should be directed to ensure effective functioning of the public distribution system.

- (ii) **Need to send a Central Study Team to assess the damage caused to crops due to drought in Himachal Pradesh and to take immediate relief measures**

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTAN-PURI (Shimla): Sir, due to drought condition in Himachal Pradesh, fruit, vegetable and foodgrain crops have been destroyed. The maize crop in the upper reaches of Sirmaur district has completely dried up. Diseases have struck ginger and other crops. The people are not being provided any relief by the Government. The extent of damage to the crops has not yet been assessed.

I urge upon the Central Government to send a study team to Sirmaur district, Solan and Shimla to assess the loss to the farmers and make arrangements to grant adequate compensation to the farmers to make good their loss.

- (iii) **Need to ensure proper functioning of Public Health Centres in backward and Adivasi areas of the country**

SHRI MANKU RAM SODI (Bastar): Sir, public health services are not functioning properly in backward regions particularly in tribal sub-plan areas. Doctors and other necessary medical personnel are not posted in the rural health centres, mini-hospitals and primary health centres. Lack of such facilities have made it difficult for villagers to shed their superstitions. Every year several children die of diarrhoea and malaria. The rate of such deaths has not gone down.

The Central Government is therefore, requested that in order to implement the public health service properly in tribal sub-plan areas all the

posts in health centres of each block should be filled up. Officials working in these difficult areas should be given incentive allowance in addition to their pay so that they may take more interest in working in these remote areas.

- (iv) **Need for early implementation of decision regarding 'one rank one pension' scheme in Defence Services**

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Sir, the Government has made many declarations regarding 'One rank one pension' for ex-servicemen but no action has been taken to implement the decision. The previous Government had given an assurance that a decision had been taken regarding 'One rank one pension' for the Ex-servicemen upto the rank of Subedar-Major and officers and this would benefit 85% of the ex-servicemen while a decision would also be taken soon in case of the remaining 15%. As this decision has not been implemented, there is wide-spread resentment among ex-servicemen throughout the country.

Hence, I request the Government to take steps to implement the decision that has been taken and to take an early decision in respect of those ranks also which were not included in this scheme earlier.

- (v) **Need to take steps to check the environmental pollution being caused by a fertilizer factory at Samastipur, Bihar**

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Sir, there is a fertilizer factory in Samastipur district of Bihar. The local people had protested against the setting up of the factory as they were apprehensive of the pollution caused by the factory. Many buildings have been damaged due to the vibrations caused by this factory. Representations have been sent to the Department of Environment, Government of India, but nothing tangible has been achieved so far.

I request the Government to direct the Department of Environment to take necessary action against this factory under the Environment Protection Act in public interest and protect the life and property of the citizens of Samastipur.

(vi) **Need to take steps to check the drought situation in Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): There is a near drought situation in Garhwal Hills of Uttar Pradesh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you speak extempore will not form part of the record; whatever you have given in writing will form part of the record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: The drinking water problem has become extremely acute. This is in spite of the fact that the major rivers like Alaknanda, Bhagirathi, Yamuna etc. originate and flow through this area.

The Minister for Water Resources is requested to direct to Central Water Commission to look into the matter and take short and long term measures at the earliest.

(vii) **Need to ensure punctuality in timings of trains between Howrah and Kharagpur**

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk): The late running of trains, particularly the local trains, has become a regular feature on the Howrah-Kharagpur suburban section of the South Eastern Railways.

The services of almost all the local trains (EMU Services) have considerably deteriorated and they reach the

destination late causing tremendous hardship to the daily passengers, office-goers, students, small business men etc. The EMU coaches have also become over-aged.

I urge upon the Railway Minister to ensure strict punctuality in running the local trains for the benefit of lakhs of daily passengers in the Howrah-Kharagpur Suburban Section of the South Eastern Railways. The over-aged EMU coaches should also be replaced immediately.

(viii) **Need to take steps to telecast Malayalam Programme relayed from Trivandrum Doordarshan by other T.V. centres in Kerala**

[Translation]

*SHRI V.S. Vijayaraghavan (Palghat): The demand for the facility to relay Malayalam programmes from the Trivandrum Doordharshan by other TV Centres including Palakkad in Kerala has been raised during the past many years. In the absence of this facility, the people living in different parts of the State are not able to view and enjoy Malayalam programmes on T.V. Most of the programmes are either in Hindi or in English. Most of the people there do not understand the language and are not even familiar with the socio-cultural background of the programmes shown on T.V. This detracts them from the utility of this medium.

It is understood that this facility could not be introduced due to non-availability of channels. However, since the work on the optical fibre cable has now been completed and channels have become available, the Ministry of Communications can provide the necessary channel. The T.V. Centres in Palakkad and other places in Kerala will be able to relay Malayalam programmes.

I request the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to take immediate steps in this regard.

*Translation of the matter originally raised in Malayalam.

**Not recorded.