

licences renewed due to the departmental rule. As such, the opium growers need to be provided suitable relief. Their licences should also be renewed. The losses were to be assessed after making physical inspection of the crops, however, that too was not done.

This matter not only relates to the interests of the thousands of farmers, it also relates to foreign exchange earnings. I, therefore, request Hon. Finance Minister to issue immediately suitable instructions to the deptt. to compensate the farmers in this regard.

**(ii) Need to open six computer reservation counters at Meerut City Railway Station, UP**

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr Speaker, Sir. Only three computerised reservation centres are functioning at present at Meerut City railway station. Meerut is a big trade and industrial centre and has a big cantonment area. In the absence of an Enquiry office at the Railway station people have to wait for hours together in hope of getting a confirmed ticket only to be told that no reservation was available in so and so train. As such people, particularly the army personnel have to face a lot of difficulties. About 1500 reservation are made at this station daily.

I, therefore, request hon. Minister of Railways to grant permission to open three more computerised reservation counters in addition to the existing three; for VIP's women and disabled persons and general public and an enquiry office should also be opened. It should be ensured that they start functioning as early as possible.

**(iii) Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the people whose crops have been affected by heavy rains and hailstorms in all districts of the State including Bilaspur.**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : (Bilaspur) Mr. Speaker, Sir. Kharif and Rabi crops of farmers have been completely destroyed due to heavy rains and hailstorms in all districts of Madhya Pradesh including district Bilaspur during the period from November 1997 to January-February 1998. The State Government has already conducted survey in this regard but so far no assistance has been given to the farmers and labourers. There is an urgent need to take up relief work and provide compensation amount to the farmers for the loss of their crops.

Hence, I request the Union Government to sanction assistance of Rs. 100 crores to Madhya Pradesh for providing compensation and taking relief measures to help the affected farmers.

**(iv) Need to set up Central Schools in Bilaspur and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur) (H.P.) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Defence Personnel, Ex-servicemen and employees working under Central Government live in large number in my parliamentary constituency Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh but no Central Schools had been set up in these two districts so far because of which employees are facing great difficulties in the matter of education of their wards.

Himachal Pradesh is a border, hilly and backward state. Therefore, I request that one Central School should be opened at district headquarters Bilaspur and also at Una District headquarter on priority basis by making provision for adequate funds for this purpose in the financial budget, 1998-99, so as to make adequate arrangements for the education of children of Defence Personnel and Central Government employees living in these districts.

**(v) Need to take adequate safety measures by detailing Expert team to monitor the fallout of nuclear blasts and to give special financial package to people of Pokharan of Jaisalmer district**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Sir, five nuclear tests have been carried out on 11th & 13th May, 1998 in Defence Field Ranges of Pokharan. I congratulate the scientists and engineers from Corps. of Engineers of Army and Defence Personnel who have contributed for success of these tests.

I have visited the adjoining villages which were affected due to nuclear tests. I met the villagers of Khetolai, Chacha and Dhollyan. I have gone through the damages caused to their houses, reservoirs, cattle and the public in general. A number of Pucca houses have been badly damaged. The assessment was carried out by non-technical persons. The compensation offered is negligible and most inadequate.

There are some underground reservoirs to store water which have developed cracks and have been damaged beyond repairs. The private land owners of the area are not permitted to go to their fields adjoining Field Fire Ranges. The local people are very apprehensive and fearful about the fallout of nuclear blasts. Some of the people are complaining about eye burning and reduction in cow milk.

I request the Government of India to take the following action to alleviate their problems :

- (a) Adequate safety measures should be taken by detailing expert teams to monitor the fallout of nuclear blasts.

The hon. Prime Minister is not here. I have been there. But I went with him also.