

(ii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka to rehabilitate devadasis

SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRI-YAPPA (Chitradurga): The incidents of dedication of girls as *devadasis* are taking place in the country even after 43 years of Independence especially in the border areas of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Like the Sati system this is also an inhuman practice.

The Andhra Pradesh Government passed legislation in 1987 banning the practice of *devadasi* system. The Karnataka Government has also taken up several measures to put an end to this evil system. In spite of this, the practice prevails in the country though there is decrease in the number of such incidents. Incidentally almost all these victims are from the downtrodden communities.

The Karnataka State Government had undertaken recently a comprehensive survey in all the taluks of Belgaum district about *devadasis* and the data collected is being processed by computers. Meanwhile, a project report on various measures to be taken up to rehabilitate the victims of *devadasi* practice has been prepared on the basis of a survey and this had been submitted to the Government of India for sanction.

I urge upon the Government of India to sanction the project and to provide substantial financial help to the State Government of Karnataka so that the victims of this system could find a better future.

(iii) Need to set up T.V. towers in Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Doordarshan expansion policy it has been mentioned that priority would be given to the

backward hilly and border areas. Unfortunately, the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh have not been covered under Doordarshan expansion scheme. At present less than 25 per cent people of this region can view T.V. programmes. The Ministry has not set up T.V. Towers even at those places for which approval was already accorded resulting in great resentment among the people of these tribal dominated border areas.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that T.V. Towers should be set up at Tehsil and sub-Tehsil headquarters at Munsyari, Champavat, Didihat, Gangolihat, Berinag, Bageshwar, Kapkot, Bhikiyasain, Moulekhal (Ratkhal) of the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh in this year itself.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction/repair of National Highways particularly National Highways passing through Mohanlalganj Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ (Mohanlalganj): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Mohanlalganj Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Several National Highways are passing through this constituency, but they are in very bad shape. The work of these National Highways has not been completed and at some places they are narrow at some places they are still unmetalled and at some other places only gravels have been laid. In the absence of road light on these Highways many serious road accidents have taken place. The water logging on these roads during rainy season causes great difficulties to the people using these roads.

Sir, I am giving here the details of some of the National Highways such as Lucknow-Hardoi road via Malihabad, Mohan Road from Mohan to Hasanganj, Unnav-Kanpur Road,