

(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,

[Sh. Sarju Prasad Saroj]

Lucknow—Sultanpur Road *via* Gosai-ganj and Lucknow—Varanasi *via* Rae Bareli. Other connecting roads to these National Highways are also in very bad shape and due to the scarcity of funds the work of these roads could not be completed.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to provide financial assistance of Rs. 10 crores immediately to the State Government so that the National Highways and other roads connecting with them which could not be repaired for want of funds could be repaired.

(v) Need to set up a bench of Allahabad High Court at Agra, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards setting up of a bench of Allahabad High Court at Agra. Jaswant Singh Commission was constituted by the Government to find out the possibilities of setting up benches of Allahabad High Court which has strongly recommended for setting up of the bench at Agra. Therefore, the Government should set up a bench of Allahabad High Court at Agra without any delay so that the possible agitation in this region could be averted.

(vi) Need to take action against the persons involved in damaging statues of Dr. Ambedkar

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): The birth centenary of Babsaheb Ambedkar is being celebrated in the country and the Government have declared it the year of social justice. It has been reported that some misguided youth and anti-social elements have damaged the statues of Dr. Ambedkar with the intention to spread violence and to divide our society and country. We still need to take the message of patriotism and social reforms of Dr. Ambedkar to all people of the society.

The Government should apprehend such misguided youth and anti-social elements and take legal action against them.

(vii) Need to ensure direct purchase of raw jute through Jute Corporation of India and also revise its remunerative price

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar): Jute is one of the two main cash crops in West Bengal. So far as my Constituency in Nadia district is concerned, jute is the main cash crop. Jute products earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange also. But the cultivators/growers are being deprived of remunerative price for their hard-earned produce. As there is no adequate number of purchasing centres of the Jute Corporation of India, the poor cultivators do not get the opportunity to sell their produce to J.C.I. As a result they become victims of the middlemen and are compelled to sell it to them at much lower rates.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to make elaborate arrangements without any further delay for purchasing the total quantity of raw jute directly from the real producers through J.C.I. I would also request the Government to revise the remunerative price as decided earlier and fix it at Rs. 650/- per quintal and for mesta at Rs. 450/- per quintal.

(viii) Need to ensure purchase of paddy by official agencies in Punjab

SHRI RAJDEV SINGH (Sangrur): After very hard work, the farmers of Punjab have produced good paddy crop. But the paddy is now rotting in mandis of Punjab. This is due to failure of official agencies to purchase paddy arriving in mandis. Huge stocks of paddy have accumulated in mandis of various districts. Heavy rains during the last days have also