

[*English*]

- (ii) Measures needed to check the spread of epidemic in Kalahandi, Orissa and also to set up a development Board for its overall development

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK (Kalahandi) : A number of people especially children are reportedly dying in the tribal dominated Langigarh Block in the district of Kalahandi in Orissa which is passing through severe drought conditions. Dystic cerebral malaria, meningitis are some of the diseases which have taken epidemic turn. They are yet to find out conclusively the reasons for these deaths. Most of the villagers live on millet and jungle roots. They have no resistance power in the absence of nutritious foods. They do not have any work to sustain themselves. A medical team consisting of doctors having experience in these fields with adequate quantity of medicines with van, and ambulance should be sent forthwith to save people. The number of feeding centres for women and children should be increased.

The plight of the poverty stricken people of Kalahandi, living in mass illiteracy and unhygienic conditions with a low per capita income cannot be improved unless some special efforts are made. A Development Board with adequate State and Central financial and technical assistance may be set up. All the vast natural resources and underground water should be properly exploited.

- (iii) Demand for clarifying the suggested price of various brands of cigarettes after the announcement of new excise duty on cigarettes

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaisali) : There is complete confusion in the cigarette industry following the recent structural changes in excise duty on cigarettes proposed in the Union Budget for 1987-88. Several cigarette varieties have disappeared from the market and in several others high prices are being charged by the shopkeepers on instructions from their manufacturers. While cigarette smoking should be discouraged and high excise duties on cigarettes is justified from that point of view, the confusion prevailing would only lead to fleecing of the public on the one hand and

generation of black money on the other. This is compounded by the absence of any clarification from the Government on how the new levy would affect the cigarette prices. In the absence of such clarification, the public has no means of finding out what exactly should be the new price of cigarette packs. It is this lacuna which helps the cigarette companies and shopkeepers to fleece the public. Government should come out immediately with a clear cut statement on what should be the suggested price of various brands under the new system.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Sir, national unity has started from here.

MR. SPEAKER : Good.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Very nice.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAMINDAR SINGH (Faridkot) : Unity concerns the hon. Speaker, who also belongs to Punjab.

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : You should endorse it, Sir.

[*Translation*]

- (iv) Construction of Ganga Barrage in Kanpur

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur) : Sir, I want to draw your attention to the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

The issue regarding the construction of the Ganga barrage in the Kanpur city of Uttar Pradesh has been raised several times and in spite of many assurances in this regard, this project has not been started as yet although survey of Bhaironghat had been conducted in January 1983. It is giving rise to discontentment among the people. The city of Kanpur is already reeling under water scarcity and the situation would become even more horrible during next summer. The tubewells go completely dry during summer. Thus, the only permanent source of water is the river Ganga. The