

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

I also request the Government that the damage to the opium crops in Rajasthan should also be assessed and then on the basis of the average of opium crop the farmers should be given licences for the next year. If the damage is not taken into accounts, the farmers are likely to be denied licences on the plea of less production. This will result in great financial difficulty to the farmers. Care should be taken that their licences are not cancelled in future also.

Therefore, I request the hon. Agriculture Minister and the Finance Minister to allocate adequate grants to the farmers and the state Government to meet the heavy financial loss suffered by the farmers due to recent heavy rains and hailstorm in several districts of Rajasthan.

[English]

(iv) Measures needed to solve the problem of Industrial sickness in West Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : The industrial sickness in West Bengal has created an alarming situation in the economy of West Bengal as well as of Eastern India. The small scale industries and a few medium scale units are at the verge of extinction in Howrah which was once upon a time the major industrial city of the country. The short supply of raw materials like pig iron, alcohol, yarn, paraffin wax had virtually closed down the major small scale foundry, candle units and hoisery units. More so, there are power shortages. Immediate steps by the Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Finance through IRBI, Banks and Industry Ministry of West Bengal Government are extremely necessary for total revival plan with the help of the recently passed bill on sick industries. The responsibility to run the industry is mainly of the State Government. The time has come that the Government of India should come in a big way with the State Government to rescue the industrial situation within three months. Sick Industry Revival Board must immediately be formed and IRBI must be asked to take managerial responsibility to nurse the units. Government of India should also take initiative to persuade big Multinational units which are

profiting every year at least to take one or other units of this kind to revive the economy and help workers of West Bengal immediately.

The Central Government may also suggest to the State Government of West Bengal to take all necessary remedial measures in this regard.

(v) Need to give financial assistance to Cultural Institutes in Bihar

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Panta) : Sir, the three institutions dealing with preservation of cultural heritage of Bihar are Pali Institute, Nalanda Prakrit Institute, Vaishali, and the Institute of Private Pundits making Panchang (Astronomical magazine) in Mithila. All these three institutions are trying to preserve the ancient and cultural heritage of Bihar. They need generous gift from the Centre for their survival and improvement.

(vi) Urgent steps needed to protect historic fort at Khurda, Orissa and to issue commemorative postal stamps in memory of "Jai Rajguru" and "Buxi Jagabandhu"

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Orissa came last under foreign domination. The brave Paiks (peasant militia) of Orissa fought against the foreign invaders till last and in 1804 A. D. in the fort at KHURDA in the District of Puri in Orissa. The last freedom battle was fought under the heroic leadership of two martyrs "Jai Rajguru" and "Buxi Jagabandhu".

But this historic fort at Khurda which is of national importance is going to ruins year by year. It may so happen that unless it is declared as a protected area and a fort to be preserved, it may be completely obliterated very soon and there may not be any trace left of this historic monument.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate measures for protecting, preserving and carrying on excavation of this Fort area and also to introduce postal stamps in the names of "Jai Rajguru" and "Buxi Jagabandhu" for commemorating the martyrs of first freedom struggle in 1804 A. D. fought at Khurda in Orissa against the foreign rulers.