

(iv) Need for clearance by Ministry of Finance to the proposals received from Department of Posts for Opening ED Branch, Post Offices in Rural Areas

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The Ministry of Finance has delayed the opening of nearly 3000 E.D. Branch Post Officers in the rural areas during the financial year 1988-89, but not giving timely clearance to the proposals submitted to it by the Department of Posts, because of the ban imposed by the Government of fresh recruitment.

As the Department of Posts had fixed its targets statewise for opening Post Offices in rural areas before 31st March, 1989, the inordinate delay in the clearance of these proposals has resulted in frustration and resentment among the people in the villages who have been looking forward to the opening of new Branch Post Offices. Not many such Post Offices had been opened after the imposition of ban in 1984.

It is both shocking and frustrating to find that the process of planned development has been scuttled due to bureaucratic hurdles.

It is high time that the Ministry of Finance clears all the proposals received after due examination and consideration at the hands of the Department of Posts without any further delay and ensure that all the Post Offices targetted for opening during the current financial year are actually opened. Any failure would cause a setback to rural development.

(v) Need to extend the Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme to all the districts of Orissa

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Government of India, Ministry of

Finance have introduced the Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for poor families under which the family of a person who meets with accidental death is provided assistance of Rs. 3,000/-. In Orissa state, the scheme at the first stage was introduced in three districts namely, Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir on August 15, 1985. It was extended to four more districts, namely, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Ganjam with effect from August 15, 1986.

Six other districts of the State namely Cuttack, Balasore, Puri, Sambalpur, Sundergarh and Phulabani have not been covered under the scheme as yet. Sundergarh is a Tribal Sub-Plan district. In Phulabani and Balasore there are 13 Tribal Sub-Plan Blocks. In all these six districts, the incidence of poverty is high.

Therefore, I demand that the scheme should be extended to the remaining six districts of Orissa.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Shri Jhikram.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can raise it with the Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give it in writing.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That you have to find out. You can give it in writing. Not like this.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***[Translation]*

- (vi) Need to send a Central Team to assess conditions in Mandla and Seoni districts of Madhya Pradesh and take remedial measures**

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to the failure of rains this year in the district of Mandla and Lakhando tehsil of Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh, these areas are facing drought situation. People are migrating to other districts in search of employment. I would like to request that the Central study team which is being sent to Chhatisgarh, should also visit Mandla and Seoni districts to assess the drought conditions prevailing there and prepare an early report. The Central Government should issue instructions to the State Government to start relief works immediately and necessary funds should also be allotted by the Centre for this purpose. 98 percent of the victims in the train accident which took place on 26.2.89 near Shikara on the metre-gauge line under South Eastern Railway belonged to my constituency. They are migrating to other districts in search of employment due to the drought conditions prevailing there. Therefore, relief works should be undertaken in these areas on a priority basis.

[English]

- (vii) Need to provide funds to expand Rajahmundry Homeopathy Hospital and to set up a research institute in East Godavari District to control filaria**

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): There is a 50-bed homoeopathy hospital in Rajahmundry. But because of financial limitations, it has not been possible to expand the hospital. People of this area, particularly of East Godavari district, suffer from chronic filariasis which is caused by mosquito bite. Allopathic medicines for this disease are only palliative. The only effective medicine for filaria is available in Homoeopathy.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to provide sufficient financial assistance to the Rajahmundry Homoeopathy hospital. I also urge upon the Government to set up a research institute in the East Godavari district to control filaria in the region.

- (viii) Need to restart the stationery office at Calcutta and review the decision to close Government presses and forms store**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): After discussion in Lok Sabha in December, 1986, the Government decided to review its decision to close down three Government presses and Forms Store, but finally directed closure of the Stationery Office from December, 1987, against which a Writ Petition was filed in Calcutta High Court and a Stay Order was obtained. Although the Government cannot give effect to the decision of closure, the employees are being paid salary without any work.

Conditions prevailing in the Printing and Stationery Department of the Government