

Printing Press. The Karnataka State indicated the advantages of having it in Karnataka where the Central investment in the recent past was not much. Sir, the matter is pending with the Union Government for long and no decision has been taken. I urge the Minister to consider the proposal regarding locating the Security Printing Press with mint in Karnataka State immediately.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need to take necessary steps to control the filaria disease in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra

SHRI VILASH MUTTEWAR (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to a report of the World Health Organisation, the number of persons suffering from filaria at present in India is one and an half crores and the number of such persons runs into crores who have come into contact with the germs of filaria. Chandrapur, Bhandara and Gadchiroli districts in Maharashtra have been badly affected by this disease and in these districts also the most affected areas lie in Pauni, Arjuni, Lakhaundur, Kurkbera, Korechi, Mool, Sindewahi, Brahmapuri, Garhchirauli, Sirocha, Aheri and Chamoresi blocks.

Some years back the incidence of this disease was negligible but in the absence of proper treatment, it is spreading like wild fire. The condition today is that there is not a single house in some villages of the said districts in Maharashtra where there is no filaria patient. The officers and the employees do not want to work in these areas affected by this disease. Not only this, the people hesitate even to establish matrimonial alliances in the filaria affected villages. Filaria is a contagious disease and the person afflicted by it cannot be cured the whole life. His body looks ugly and he suffers from inferiority complex.

The Filaria Control Programme was launched in 1955-56 but it could not make any headway due to its slow implementation. In 1980, a survey programme for 290 filaria affected districts was formulated but only 176 villages were surveyed and there

also only 151 centres were opened. This speaks of the situation.

It is said that this disease is caused when 'culex' mosquito bites a person 1500 times. One could just imagine the huge number of mosquitoes in these districts of Maharashtra. For proper diagnosis of the patient, it is necessary that the blood of the patient for a test should be taken during night.

I would, therefore, like to urge the Central Government that it should not leave the people of Garh Chiroli, Bhandara and Chandrapur at the mercy of the State Government, because this work is beyond the capacity of the Government. The work of mosquito eradication should be undertaken expeditiously in these districts and proper medical aid should be made available to the people by opening a Health Centre in each village and by sending a team to conduct a survey so that this disease could be checked from spreading.

- (iii) Need to take necessary measures to ensure payment of remunerative price to the sugarcane growers in North Bihar

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balua) : The economy of North Bihar is based on agriculture and a large area in this region is under sugarcane cultivation. There are a number of sugar mills. The sugar mill owners are not paying reasonable prices to the poor and illiterate farmers for their produce. Due to non-payment of reasonable prices, there is great resentment among the farmer in North Bihar. Keeping in view the pitiable condition of these poor farmer, the Central Government should take some concrete steps urgently and help the poor farmers. I would, therefore, urge the Hon. Agriculture Minister to take some concrete steps in this regard to remove the sufferings of the farmers so that their financial position could be strengthened.

- (iv) Need to provide old age pension to agricultural labour in the country

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA (Chhota Udaipur) : I would like to draw the

attention of the Hon. Labour Minister towards agricultural labourers. There are lakhs of agricultural labourers whose condition is very pitiable. They have neither houses to live in nor they get fully work throughout the year. They get very meagre wages and they have to pass their old age with great difficulty. Even their family members do not take care of them in the old age. At that time their condition becomes very pitiable.

I would, therefore, like to request the Government that arrangement should be made to pay old age pension or some allowance to the old and helpless agricultural labourers so that they do not face starvation in their remaining life and they are able to live peacefully.

- (v) Need to improve transport facilities in Madhya Pradesh to accelerate the economic development of the State

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA** (Vidisha) : Madhya Pradesh is the largest State in the country, but the progress made by the State in the matter of communication and transport facilities has been less than the national average. The progress made in the field of railway facilities or the development of roads and air services is not satisfactory. Therefore, there should be expansion of railway lines in the far-flung areas of the State especially, in the tribal districts of Jhabua and Bastar. The State Government has sent proposals for 6 new national highways to the Central Government and the Centre should accord its approval to them expeditiously. We have been demanding for many years that Boeing Air Service should be introduced on Delhi Bhopal-Nagpur and Bombay Aurangabad-Bhopal-Jaipur-New Delhi routes and Bilaspur and Bastar be linked with Bhopal by Vayudoot services.

I would like to submit that by according approval to these schemes, the pace of development of Madhya Pradesh will be accelerated and national income would also go up due to growth in tourist traffic.

[English]

- (vi) Need to amend the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules and set up one man standing tribunals for settling accident claims

**DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN** (Chengalpattu) : During the recent past, there have been a number of accidents in Railways and a large number of human lives are being lost, as well as resulting in acute injuries. It may be recalled that the Railway Convention Committee have made some recommendations with regard to the payment of compensation to the victims of the accidents. It has been noticed that the amount of compensation being paid is much delayed and the claims are not settled in time. The Railway Convention Committee have recommended to constitute a one-man claim tribunal to deal with accident claims without further delay. Recently, there was a major accident in Ariyalur, Southern Railway and a lot of hardships and sufferings have been caused to a number of people including the families of the deceased. It is imperative that the Central Government should take immediate steps to amend the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules which were enacted as early as 1950. One-man Standing Tribunals for settling the claims must be constituted on priority basis. This will help redress the sufferings of the accident victims.

- (vii) Need to ensure that the L.P.G. meant for domestic use is not diverted to commercial use by the dealers for monetary gains

**SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA** (Vaishali) : The Government's decision to raise the price of LPG for commercial purposes may be justified but it poses some unforeseen risks to domestic consumers. As the price between domestic and commercial use differs so widely, there will be greater temptation on the part of LPG distributors to divert LPG meant for domestic users to commercial users. Also, there would be less interest on the part of dealers to supply domestic consumers who would be compelled to wait for a number of days to get the refills. The Government must, therefore, ask each dealer