

There is an urgent need that the Central Government should assist in preparing schemes for slum upgradation and Housing so that the weaker sections of the society are benefited and their condition is improved. The policy of the Government is to uplift the weaker sections of the society. For preparing the schemes and in assisting the local authorities and State Government, I demand all possible help through HUDCO.

I also suggest to open an office of HUDCO in Nagpur which could cater to the need of entire Vidharba region including Nagpur and also part of Madhya Pradesh. I hope that Central Government will take urgent steps in this direction.

[Translation]

(v) Steps to control the disease affecting mango crop in Rajkot

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, mangoes are grown on a large scale in my area Rajkot, and in many areas like Surat, Vadodhara, and Bharuch in Gujarat and Saurashtra. These are also exported and help in earning valuable foreign exchange for the country. Mango crop is the means of livelihood for thousands of poor people. Fine qualities of mangoes like Hafus, Jamadar, Pairi, Kesar etc. are produced in this area. But for last few years, the mango crop has been affected by disease and has got destroyed. Consequently, the poor people are deprived of their means of livelihood and they suffer a lot.

The pesticides which are used to destroy the pests is very costly and the poor farmers cannot afford to purchase it. Therefore, I request the Government that scientists from I.C.A.R. should be sent to identify the disease in order to save mangoes from further destructions and also to destroy the pests completely. Along with this, arrangements should be made for free distribution of pesticides or supplying them at cheaper rates to the farmers.

[English]

(vi) Demand for no bar of distance in the matter of advancing loans etc. to people of Mirzapur district of U.P. under IRDP and special component programmes

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): In spite of Central Government and State Government's efforts, the lead banks in Mirzapur District are not advancing loans to the poor people, especially to those who are entitled to get such benefits under the IRDP, special component programmes in the interior areas of District.

It is the need of the hour that villages of the district should be linked up with some Bank. Otherwise, the developmental programmes will not reach the poor. Actually, the benefits are only confined to those villages which are situated near some banks. It has been stated by the Reserve Bank of India that so far as IRDP, special component programmes are concerned, there shall be no bar of distance in benefitting the poor especially those who are below the poverty line. In practice, no bank is coming forward to go beyond a certain distance.

While presenting the budget the Finance Minister had stated that all the villages will be covered by 40,000 branches of the nationalised banks as early as possible. That has also not been done till now.

I therefore urge upon the Finance Minister to look into the matter and do the needful.

[Translation]

(vii) Demand for a proper status to Sanskrit in the new Education Policy

*SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, Sanskrit Scholars and lovers of Sanskrit, throughout the country are expressing concern because the New Education Policy does not give

* Translation of the matter originally raised in Sanskrit