

- (a) The Government should replace the traditional age-old pattern of cultivation of betel leaves by a more scientific method.
- (b) Remunerative price should be announced by the Government so as to give an incentive to the betel leaf growers.
- (c) NAFED should purchase the full quantity of betel leaves from the growers at remunerative prices so as to spare them from the clutches of the middlemen and the big traders.
- (d) The Export Promotion Council should include betel leaves in the list of items for export, particularly to the Gulf countries.
- (e) The betel leaves should be charged the Railway Freight at fifty per cent concessional rates and be booked in the Super Fast Trains under the head 'Perishable Goods'
- (f) The betel leaf cultivation should be included in the Crop Insurance Scheme ; and
- (g) The betel leaf cultivation should be taken up in the D.R.D.A. Scheme and Bank Loans should be given to the betel leaf growers on liberal terms.

[Translation]

- (v) Financial Assistance to Himachal Pradesh for Constructing its Capital and transfer of land and buildings to the State Government.

SHRI K D. SULTANPURI (Simla) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to raise the following matter:

Himachal Pradesh got the status of a fulfilled State long back and the Central Government has been providing considerable assistance for the development of this State. Today, this State has its own medical college, university, High Court

and all sorts of administrative facilities. In 1966, hill areas of Punjab—Kangra, Kulu, Simla districts etc.—were merged in this State because the customs and traditions of the people of these areas were almost the same as those of the people of this State. At that time the people of these districts felt happy as it was a brotherly reconciliation. Simla became the capital of the State, but most of the buildings, houses and land there belong to the Government of India due to which the State Government experience difficulty in running its offices. I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide assistance for building the capital as has been done in the case of other States and transfer the buildings, houses and land to the State Government so that it may not have any difficulty. I hope that Government will fulfil this demand of the State Government and remove its difficulties.

13.00 hrs.

- (iv) Need to check deforestation in several districts of Madhya Pradesh to preserve environment.

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in many districts of Madhya Pradesh forests have been denuded and fresh afforestation is being undertaken by the Social Forestry Branch of the Forest Department. It is an improper step from the point of view of preventing pollution of the environment. Besides, there is great resentment among the local residents due to this new scheme. They are resorting to 'Chipko' movement because it is destroying their pasture land.

Therefore, the Central Government should intervene in the matter and issue orders to the State Government to stop cutting of forests forthwith. Besides, a suggestion may be given to them that afforestation should be undertaken in hills where there are no trees because there are a number of such hills in the State. When the work of afforestation in those hills and other places having no trees is completed, only then the work of afforestation in denuded forests should be taken up. It is absolutely necessary in public interest as well as from the point of view of environment.