

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

scheme introduced by the Central Government is in force in those remote hilly areas which are inaccessible and where industrialists find it difficult to set up industries.

The Ministry of Industry has granted subsidy upto 50 per cent under that Scheme which was increased to 75 per cent in April, 1983 because the cost of transportation of goods had increased.

12.09 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

The Central Transport Subsidy Scheme is restricted to only the hilly areas and is not in force in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts where the train services are inadequate and also in the remote areas which are difficult to reach.

The Central Government have declared Barmer and Jaisalmer districts as 'no industry districts'. There are large deposits of limestone, batonite, yellow stone, gypsum, rock phosphate, clay etc., in those areas but like hilly areas, it is very difficult to reach those remote areas.

The Central Government have provided cent per cent assistance for the development of the desert areas in the same way as it has done in the case of the development of hilly areas.

I would, therefore, strongly urge the Government to provide 75 per cent transport subsidy for the desert areas, as is provided for the hilly areas, particularly in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of the Thar Desert, the remote areas which are difficult to reach and thereby encourage small entrepreneurs to set up industries there so that this backward and border area could develop.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Need to reduce the average purchase of opium from the growers from 32 kg. to 27 kg. in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH (Guna) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, about ten thousand

opium cultivators of Mandsaur and Ratlam districts of Madhya Pradesh and Chittorgarh and Jhalawat districts of Rajasthan have been issued notices for the cancellation of their licences whereas assurance was given to them that reduction in the average quantum of procurement would be sympathetically considered in view of the damage caused to opium crop by hailstorm last year. The average production of opium has fallen by two to three per cent in comparison with the average production of 1985 due to the damage caused by hailstorm. It is, therefore, requested that the average quantum of opium to be procured from the opium growers in 1986 be proportionately reduced from 32 kg. to 27 kg. This demand of the farmers should be considered sympathetically because their crop of opium has been severely hit due to the natural calamity and hailstorm.

[*English*]

(iv) Demand for streamlining the Haj affairs and for arranging direct flights from Srinagar to Jeddah

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):  
The performance of Haj by Indian pilgrim needs to be streamlined. As of now, Indian pilgrims face several odds while in Saudi Arabia. They have difficulties in respect of accommodation, medical aid, in matters relating to their identification, transport and selection of guides. The entire process requires close scrutiny and reforms as the snags in the present arrangements bring bad name to the country. The Ministry of External Affairs should involve itself more closely with the Haj affairs and strengthen, through funds and facilities its embassy at Riyadh and Consulate General at Jeddah. The Ministry should also go into the functioning of the Haj Committee against which several allegations have been levelled by several quarters. The Haj Committee should be made broad-based by drawing members from all States, especially from Jammu & Kashmir which is a Muslim majority State. Since most of the pilgrims fly